TEXAS BUSINESS REVIEW

A MONTHLY SUMMARY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN TEXAS

BUREAU OF BUSINESS RESEARCH
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

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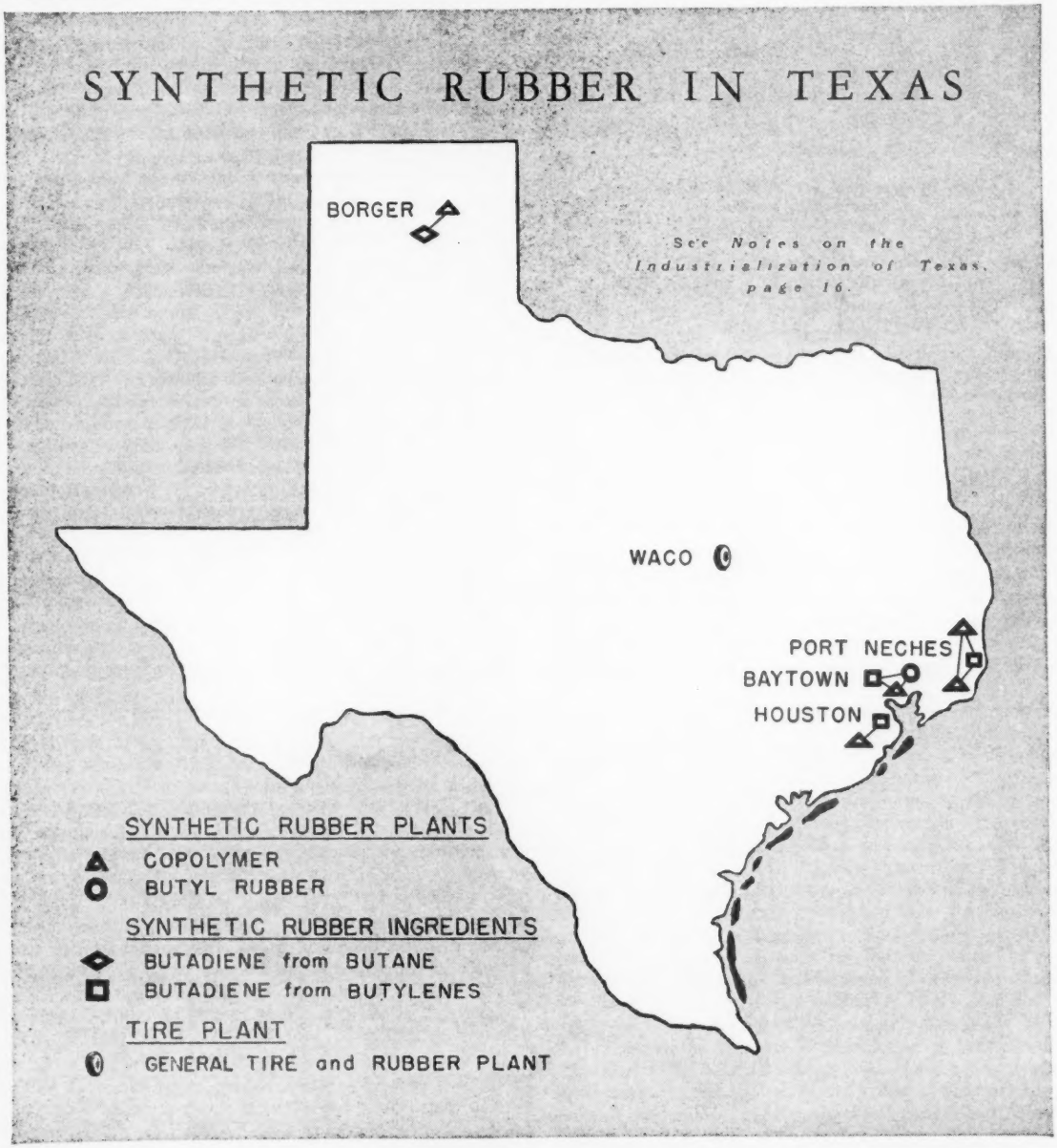
SYNTHETIC RUBBER IN TEXAS



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The Business Situation in Texas

The index of business activity in Texas compiled by the Bureau of Business Research rose 2% in August after adjustment for seasonal variation. This rise in the index restored all of the loss suffered in July and reversed the downward trend that had held for the preceding three months. August was relatively free from unusual, disturbing forces, which during the spring and early summer tended to put somewhat erratic fluctuations into the business barometers. Although the effects of the steel strike were still being felt, recovery from the work stoppage has been faster than expected. This has resulted in an unmistakable rise in the index of business activity. The change in each of the series included in the composite is shown in the table below.

INDEX OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN TEXAS AND COMPONENT SERIES
(adjusted for seasonal variation)
1935–39=100

Indexes	Weight	Aug 1952	July 1952	Percent change
Index of Business Activity (Composite)	100.0	258*	254*	+ 2
Retail sales, adjusted for price changes	47.7	216*	218*	— 1
Industrial power consumption	14.8	512	493	+ 4
Crude oil runs to stills	4.5	214	203	+ 5
Electric power consumption	3.0	635	608	+ 4
Miscellaneous freight carloadings	17.6	142	139	+ 2
Urban building permits, adjusted for price changes	3.8	153*	170	— 10
Crude petroleum production	8.6	224	216	+ 4

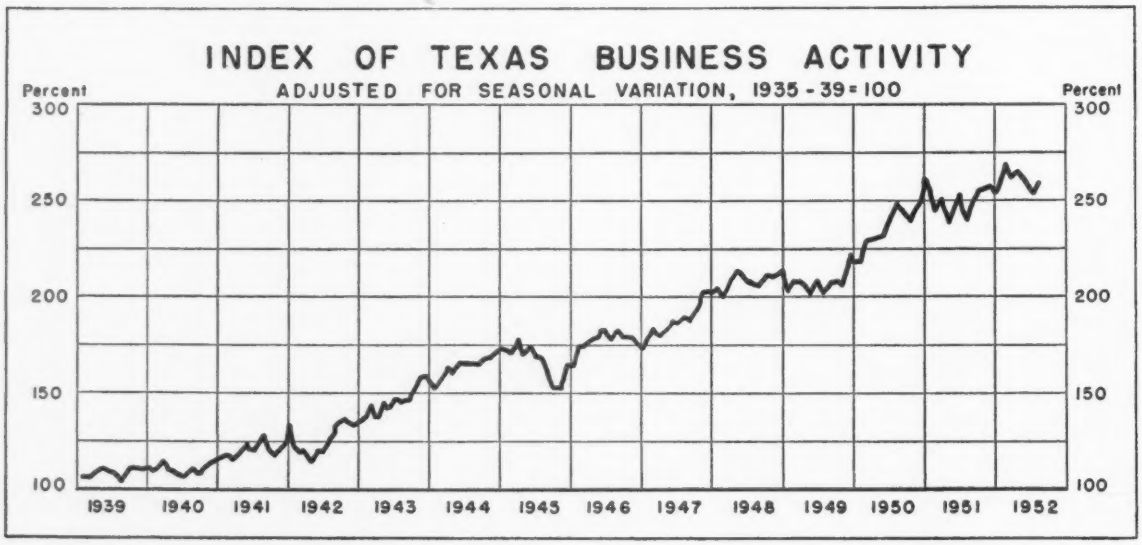
*Preliminary.

Five out of the seven component indexes included in the index of business rose in August, giving a rather emphatic upward movement to the composite. Crude runs to stills rose 5% between July and August, to register the largest gain in the component series. Crude production, total electric power consumption, and industrial electric power consumption each increased 4%. Miscellaneous freight carloadings rose 2%. Urban building authorized showed the greatest change of any of the series with a 10% decrease. Retail sales again declined, although the decline for this month was 1% compared to a decline of 6% in July.

It is interesting to note that the U. S. Department of Commerce data on retail sales in August also showed a 1% decline from July. Sales of nondurable-goods stores increased 1% over the previous month but were 5% above a year earlier. Sales of durable-goods stores, however, declined both in relation to the previous month and the same month a year ago. August 1952 was 5% below July and 3% under August 1951.

The expenditures of consumers is the most important element in the index of total business in Texas, and for this reason the data on retail sales are given nearly half the weight (47.7%) in the composite. For the past three months this index has declined from the preceding month, after having risen to a high of 508 in May. The decline during August was caused by the lower sales of durable-goods stores, down 7%, and 16% below a year ago. In this group the automobile and building material dealers accounted for most of the decline. August 1952 sales of automobile dealers were 26% below August 1951, and for the first eight months of 1952 sales were 7% lower than for the same period of 1951. Lumber, building material, and hardware stores were down 3% in August 1952 from August 1951, and for the first eight months sales were down 8% from a year earlier. Sales of nondurable-goods stores for August 1952 were 9% above the level of the preceding August, and their sales for January–August 1952 were 5% above the first eight months of last year. August 1952 sales were 3% ahead of July.

To a certain extent the decline in sales of automobiles can be blamed on the curtailment of production brought about by the shortage of materials. But there is consider-



able evidence that consumer demand was weakening at the same time production was being curtailed. If the expected increase in the supply of materials is forthcoming next year, there is a strong possibility that competition will become more intense than at any time since the end of the war.

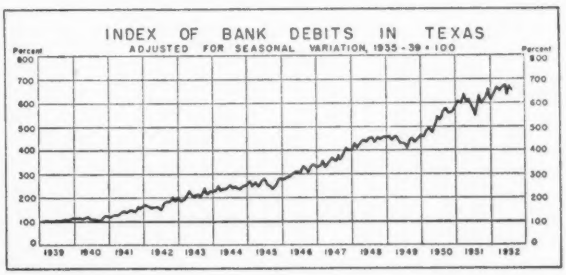
The behavior of sales of durable consumer goods resembles the situation in the construction industry. The slowing down in new building authorized, particularly residential, seems to indicate that the big backlog of demand has been filled.

Expenditures of consumers for nondurable goods rather generally tend to behave differently than expenditures for durable goods. Since expenditures for housing, automobiles, furniture, and appliances are really investments in things that are worn out over a considerable period of time, there is a tendency to concentrate purchases in certain periods and to refrain from buying at other times. In this respect, consumer durable goods are very much like capital goods, and periods of high-level business activity are almost invariably periods of great activity in the durable consumer-goods industries as well as in capital goods. Consumer purchases of nondurable goods tend to fluctuate less violently and to change the direction of their movement only after the level of total income has changed. Changes in consumer expenditures for nondurable goods may generally be considered the results of changes in business activity, while changes in the purchase of capital goods (which may be considered to include durable consumer goods) are important factors causing changes in the business situation.

In Texas, an element of even greater importance than the purchases of durable consumer goods during the past two years has been the extremely rapid industrial expansion. The building of new plants and the expansion of existing facilities have had a greater effect on employment and income payments to individuals than any other phase of business, and there is no indication of an early end to the expansion. More complete statistical data are available for the United States than for Texas, and these figures indicate that in the third quarter of 1952 expenditures for new plant and equipment will be somewhat higher than in the first half of 1952, after adjustment for seasonal variation. This means that the third quarter of 1952 may establish an all-time high for capital expenditures by business. Although complete statistical data are not available, all the facts collected by the Bureau of Business Research indicate that capital expansion plans of businesses in Texas are running ahead of the nation as a whole.

The continued expansion of plant and equipment in both manufacturing and nonmanufacturing industries in Texas tends to offset the decline in purchases of durable goods by consumers. This fact explains why the index of business activity is currently holding above the level of 1951, in the face of a slackening in consumer demand for certain types of durable goods.

The index of bank debits compiled by the Bureau of Business Research from data collected by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas is used to check on the level of business activity registered by the composite index of business. Since the majority of payments are made by check, the total of checks debited to bank accounts serves as a measure of total business activity. The index of bank debits is given in the following chart, which shows approximately the same course as the composite index of business activity. Allowance must be made for the fact that the index of bank debits reflects the changes in monetary expenditures and therefore is affected by the rise in the price level. The major pattern of change in business appears to be the same, regardless of which index is used to measure it, although the last few months show certain minor deviations. The index of business activity declined during the summer when first the strike of refinery workers and then the steel strike slowed down industrial activity. Since most business and consumer expenditures remained high during these strikes, the total payments registered by the bank debits did not decline, although the composite index of business, which reflects changes in industrial activity, did dip during the months



when business was feeling the effects of the strike. The stability of the index of bank debits during the past three months lends support to the conclusions expressed in these columns that business activity has been only temporarily disturbed by the strikes of the past few months.

From the viewpoint of the general business situation, the abolition of credit controls on building is an indication that much of the inflationary pressure built up during the past two years has disappeared. From now on, the financing of new homes will not be restricted except as the policy of public and private lending agencies may require.

The behavior of the price indexes lends further support to the belief that the forces causing inflation are losing much of their strength. The Index of Wholesale Prices is the most comprehensive measure of the changes in levels of commodity prices and is generally considered an indicator of inflation. Wholesale commodity prices declined steadily from March 1951 to June 1952. The index rose in July; and during the first three weeks of August this rise continued. However, in the fourth week it resumed its slow decline. It appears that the downward trend is likely to continue, in view of the greatly increased productive capacity in industry and the prospects that the peak of the rearmament drive may not be far off. There is no good explanation of the fact that the Consumers' Price Index continues to rise. One of the major causes of the rise in this index is that the food component has been going up, even though the prices of farm products and the wholesale prices of processed foods have been declining through most of the period. It seems inevitable that with a continuation of the downward trend in wholesale prices, the prices to consumers must eventually turn down.

JOHN R. STOCKTON

TEXAS BUSINESS REVIEW

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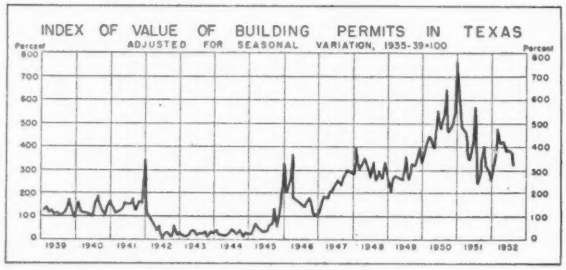
CONSTRUCTION

Builders optimistic. The Bureau's seasonally adjusted index of building permit values declined 10% from July to August, its fourth drop in the past six months. Yet, builders throughout the state are heartened by the recent suspension of credit controls and the prospect that government controls on construction may be relaxed sooner than expected.



Most builders and loan men throughout the state predict increases in all types of building activity. Some forecast gains of as much as 10 to 20% on lower price-range homes. Others feel that there will be little effect on homes costing up to $15,000 but that there will be an increase in the building of homes in the $15,000-to-$50,000 price range. Some believe that while the expected increase will not materially help home sales and building, it will be a boon to commercial building. However, the discarding of credit controls implies that the Federal Reserve Board considers that the building boom has weakened to such a point that it no longer has an inflationary effect on the national economy.

The construction market in Texas appears to be going through an adjustment period similiar to that which took place in 1949. Relaxation of credit controls and the fact that the steel shortage seems to be less acute than was feared should be strong enough factors to offset any further decreases in construction activity in Texas; perhaps a slight increase will occur.

The national picture. Expenditures for new construction in August rose seasonally (+2%) to $3,152 million, the highest U. S. monthly figure on record, according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics and also the Building Materials Division of the U. S. Department of Commerce. Special investigation into contract construction employment and the field operations of major public construction agencies revealed that the steel dispute had no demonstrable effect on construction expenditures in August.

Texas permits dip. The value of permits issued in Texas for new building during August dropped 9% below the July level. Total new construction for this year through August now stands 6% below the same period of 1951.

Residential construction, however, is holding relatively stable. The August figure showed an increase of 1% over July to bring the first eight months of 1952 to a point 3% above the like period last year. Apartment building is the only class that showed a decline in the eight-month comparisons.

Nonresidential building registered a whopping 28% drop from July to August. Heavy declines in institutional

building, office and bank building, public building, and public works and utilities caused the 6% decline in the eight-month total this year compared to last year.

Contracts awarded in Texas. Construction contracts awarded during the first seven months of 1952 were 7% below the same period last year. All classes decreased except public works and utilities (+34%) and additions, alterations, and repairs to residential structures (+18%).

Decreases in new construction in the first seven months of 1952 can be accounted for in great part by the substantial (11%) decline in public building. The only category showing a massive increase during this period was privately financed public works and utilities (+294%), and the only other group showing any increase at all was publicly financed public works and utilities (+2%).

New construction in three leading states. Estimates recently received by the Bureau of Business Research from the National Production Authority indicate that in total value of new construction during 1951, Texas was surpassed only by California and New York. The values of new construction in Texas and New York since World War II have been approximately equal, but they are substantially below California, which has led the nation for more than a decade.

Texas topped New York during the 1946–48 period but since then has dropped to third place. However, relative to population, Texas was second with $289.80 per capita, compared to $155.80 for New York and $331.40 for California.

ESTIMATES OF BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED
(in thousands)

Source: Bureau of Business Research in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor

Classification	Aug 1952*	January-August		Percent change
		1952	1951	
All building permits	$ 47,229	$430,714	$452,295	— 5
Kind of construction				
New construction	41,572	376,119	400,178	— 6
Residential	30,674	268,934	261,059	+ 3
Housekeeping	30,629	267,480	258,710	+ 3
Single family	28,559	243,095	236,211	+ 3
Multiple family	2,070	24,385	22,499	+ 8
Nonhousekeeping	45	1,504	2,349	— 36
Nonresidential	10,898	107,185	139,119	— 23
Additions, alterations, and repairs	5,657	54,595	52,117	+ 5
City-size group (Population, 1940 Census)				
Over 100,000	22,404	186,676	228,644	— 18
50,000 to 100,000	7,838	78,913	75,682	+ 4
25,000 to 50,000	4,152	43,411	34,518	+ 26
Under 25,000	12,835	121,714	113,451	+ 7

Only building for which permits were issued within the incorporated area of the city is included. Federal contracts are excluded.
*Preliminary.

New York has exceeded Texas in total value of new constructuion since 1949 because of its great volume of public construction. Actually, Texas has been second only to California in total value of private construction put in place ever since 1943.

Construction of privately-owned public utilities in Texas has substantially exceeded such construction in any other state since 1951. Private nonresidential building in Texas, however, was smaller, compared to total private construction, than it was in New York or California.

In public highway construction, Texas exceeded California during 1951 after having fallen behind in 1950. However, the leading states in 1951 were New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York, with Texas in fourth place.

Federally-financed construction during the war and post-war periods has provided a great boost to the construction industry in California, and also in Texas and New York, but to a lesser extent. State and local public construction has been very important in New York and California but comparatively less impressive in Texas. Construction activity appears to be more diversified and better balanced in Texas than in California and New York, and thus it is somewhat less likely to experience large increase or declines in the coming year than in the other two states. Should a general downturn in activity make an increase of federal, state, and local expenditures desirable, construction could be more easily sustained by such means in Texas than in New York or California.

Construction regulations. Regulation X was discarded September 16. Federal reserve officials suspended outright all credit controls on homes purchased through private lending institutions as well as loans for the construction of office buildings, shopping centers, stores, and other commercial building.

The action means that the Federal Reserve Board no longer will restrict purchases of new homes but will leave the job up to other federal housing agencies as well as to the state and local lending laws.

Controls on home-buying arranged through the Federal Housing Administration will also be dropped as will regullations on the purchase of veterans housing. However, FHA and the Veterans Administration announced immediately that they would continue to require cash down payments in accordance with laws already passed by Congress.

Government construction controls brought on by shortages of vital materials may be dropped sooner than planned if the defense program does not require all the steel set aside for its use during the last quarter of this year.

The plan now is to allot more steel, copper, and aluminum for almost all types of construction beginning next April 1. But the construction industry insists there will be plenty of vital materials sooner than that—perhaps as early as the first of the year. Defense production officials have agreed to look into the supply situation again when they meet with industry officials on October 29.

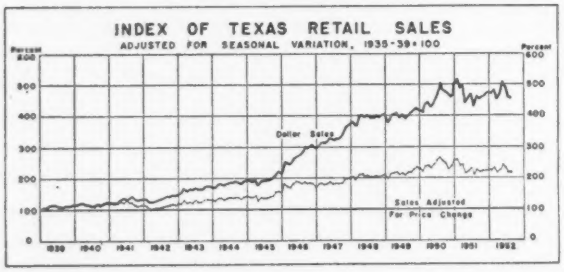
Permits reported by Texas cities. Reports by local building inspectors to the Bureau show that the total value of permits issued in Houston during August was the highest in the state ($8,631,000) for the third consecutive month although closely followed by Dallas with $8,042,000.

On a per capita basis, Irving, a city near Dallas, was way out ahead of any other city in Texas with $236.70 worth of building permits issued for each person in that city. Next in line was Bellaire with $86.87, followed by Pasadena with $47.14, Odessa with $40.59, Amarillo with $35.53, and Garland with $35.06.

RICHARD C. HENSHAW, JR.

RETAIL TRADE

"Normalcy" ahead? Since April, retail merchandise stocks have been brought into better operating balance with expected sales, and retailers have been buying less timidly and on longer-term commitments. In fact, the volume of seasonal reordering, as customers have raided timidly planned stocks, has brought about slow deliveries in numerous nondurable lines where manufacturers had been equally cautious about building up stocks in advance of firm orders. Since April, also, customers have shown


INDEX OF TEXAS RETAIL SALES
ADJUSTED FOR SEASONAL VARIATION, 1935-39=100
Dollar Sales
Sales Adjusted For Price Change
1939 1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949 1950 1951 1952

themselves less expectant of further price declines, even less fearful of merchandise shortages, more free-spending, and somewhat more inclined to examine the more expensive merchandise offerings. Their use of instalment and ordinary credit facilities reached new high points this summer. With pressure from the cost of living at new peaks, customers have remained price-exacting.

Retail and wholesale prices. In August retail prices in general made their first small gain since May 1951, according to the Fairchild Publications Retail Price Index. After declining for nine consecutive months, quotations averaged 2.1% below August 1951. The 0.2% rise in this index was attributable to higher prices recorded for home furnishings and piece goods. August was the first month in many when most commodities included in this index either advanced or remained unchanged; there were few decreases. The probable trend of retail prices will be slowly upward, with fluctuation or hesitation in some individual lines before a convincing upturn. Fluctuating wholesale prices have approximated upward tendencies in numerous lines, which are yet to be reflected at retail

ESTIMATES OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES

(In millions)

Type of store	Aug 1952	Jan-Aug 1952	Percent change: Aug 1952 from Aug 1951	Aug 1952 from July 1952	Jan-Aug 1952 from Jan-Aug 1951
Total	**$608.9**	**$4,911.6**	**— 2**	**+ 1**	**x**
Durable goods	246.8	2,137.4	— 16	— 5	— 6
Nondurable goods	362.1	2,774.2	+ 9	+ 6	+ 5

xChange is less than one half of one percent.

levels. Sharp and rapid upward changes do not appear likely. Should they occur, they would encounter the deeply rooted price resistance of consumers and the feeling among retailers that they are quite unable to absorb further price advances into their narrow profit margins.

Sales promotions important. The better sales volumes in all parts of the country have been closely correlated with competent and attractive promotional events. August furniture sales generally exceeded earlier expectations, but floor coverings did not sell so well. Upholstered lines and case goods sparked new customer interest. Pre-school promotions brought gratifying response in most parts of the nation outside the retarded New York area. Customers have shown keen interest in women's suits, coats, and sportswear; but men's wear and infants' lines remained sluggish. The seasonal stimulus of cool

RETAIL SALES TRENDS

Source: Bureau of Business Research in cooperation with the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce

Group	Number of reporting establishments	Percent change: Aug 1952 from Aug 1951	Aug 1952 from July 1952	Jan-Aug 1952 from Jan-Aug 1951
KIND OF BUSINESS				
Durable goods				
Automotive stores	241	— 26	— 7	— 7
Furniture and household appliance stores	161	x	— 1	+ 9
Jewelry stores	30	+ 17	+ 6	+ 4
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores	282	— 3	— 1	— 8
Nondurable goods				
Apparel stores	233	+ 5	+ 12	+ 4
Country general stores	50	— 1	+ 5	— 1
Department stores	55	+ 3	+ 10	+ 4
Drug stores	147	+ 1	+ 3	+ 3
Eating and drinking places	108	+ 2	+ 7	+ 5
Filling stations	674	+ 2	— 3	+ 7
Florists	41	+ 7	+ 4	+ 5
Food stores	258	+ 27	+ 5	+ 10
General merchandise stores	114	+ 6	+ 11	+ 4
Liquor stores	22	+ 5	+ 2	+ 2
Office, store, and school supply dealers	43	+ 2	x	+ 8
CITY-SIZE CLASS (Population, 1950 Census)				
Over 250,000	967	+ 2	+ 7	+ 2
100,000 to 250,000	357	— 8	+ 2	— 1
50,000 to 100,000	244	— 8	— 3	— 1
2,500 to 50,000	800	+ 14	— 5	— 1
Under 2,500	116	— 1	— 2	+ 4

xChange is less than one half of one percent.

weather has not yet reached the South; but the Southwest has continued to respond to clearance sales and other promotions having convincing price and value appeal. Retail business in the Southwest has remained ahead of the national average for the 22 weeks prior to mid-September.

Prospects. For the nation as a whole, business prospects appear highly promising for the next 8 to 12 months, especially in areas with high defense spending and payrolls from related industries. In the Southwest, drought conditions, resulting in decimated herds and poor crop yields, will prune purchasing power in the affected areas. New, high petroleum allowables are countered by the reduced availability of petroleum industry equipment expected to cut down drilling activity by 20% this year.

Problems ahead. Retailers will face heightened competition in months ahead, less flexible credit from suppliers, a tighter money market, increasing expenses with their challenge for efficient operation, and the continuing need for *selling* customers through carefully tailored promotions and competently trained salesforces. Domestic political uncertainty, mercurial international develop-

ments, and the unpredictable psychology of markets and customers, all add to business hazards for 1952–53.

Survey of Texas trade. In Texas, with 2,484 stores reporting and one less shopping day than last August, total retail sales in August 1952 topped July by 1% but slipped below August 1951 by 2%. This drop was due chiefly to a 16% decrease from last year in sale of consumer durable goods in August and a 6% drop for January–August from the same eight months of 1951. Nondurables advanced 9% in August over last year and 5% for the year through August.

Most retail lines topped their volumes of August 1951, with strongest advances among food stores (+27%), jewelry stores (+17%), and shoe stores (+9%). Motor vehicle dealers averaged the largest decrease (–28%), with drops of 1 to 4% for several other lines. For the eight months of 1952 over the same period of 1951, most retail lines reported increases ranging up to 15%. Exceptions were motor vehicle dealers and lumber, building material and hardware stores (each –8%) and country general stores (–1%).

CREDIT RATIOS IN DEPARTMENT AND APPAREL STORES
(In percent)

Classification	Number of reporting stores	Credit ratios* Aug 1952	Credit ratios* Aug 1951	Collection ratios† Aug 1952	Collection ratios† Aug 1951
All stores	61	65.4	66.4	44.1	46.1
By cities					
Austin	6	57.7	58.0	52.9	54.3
Cleburne	3	39.0	38.1	40.4	39.2
Dallas	8	74.6	75.7	44.7	46.5
El Paso	3	57.2	54.1	33.6	35.9
Fort Worth	4	62.5	63.1	47.0	47.4
Galveston	5	53.9	54.9	46.9	48.0
Houston	3	72.6	76.1	42.6	41.1
San Antonio	3	60.1	60.3	37.1	42.3
Waco	4	58.2	57.3	50.4	55.6
Others	26	60.3	61.0	40.4	42.3
By type of store					
Department stores (over $1 million)	17	67.0	68.6	42.6	44.2
Department stores (under $1 million)	12	50.8	49.4	43.1	48.5
Dry goods and apparel stores	6	69.0	69.0	51.7	55.2
Women's specialty shops	11	60.6	60.7	48.3	51.3
Men's clothing stores	10	62.3	58.5	53.7	57.4
By volume of net sales (Population, 1950 Census)					
Over $3,000,000	15	67.0	68.7	43.0	44.8
$1,500,000 to $3,000,000	6	63.3	61.2	53.2	55.3
$500,000 to $1,500,000	13	59.9	58.6	49.2	54.5
$250,000 to $500,000	13	45.3	44.5	45.6	44.5
Less than $250,000	9	50.2	45.4	40.9	40.2

*Credit sales divided by net sales.
†Collections during the month divided by the total accounts unpaid on the first of the month.

Reporting by cities, 288 Texas department and apparel stores averaged increases of 11% from July, 5% over August 1951, and 4% for January–August 1952 over the first eight months of 1951. Among the 31 cities included, 23 bettered July, 22 topped August 1951, and 22 were ahead of January–August 1951. Corpus Christi and Denison made the best showing (each +23%) over August 1951; and Corpus Christi (+15%) and Bryan (+11%) were leaders for the first eight months of 1952.

Of 32 cities reporting enough retailers to be listed individually, 16 topped sales of July, but only three bettered August 1951. Eleven were ahead of January–August 1951. Mineral Wells (+16%) and McAllen (+11%) made the largest increases over July. Houston (+15%), also Marshall and Mineral Wells (each +8%), showed best in the August-to-August and January-August comparisons.

Secondary trade indicators. Advertising linage in 29 Texas newspapers in August topped July by 3% and August 1951 by 5%. Of these 29 papers, 19 bettered July and 17 were ahead of a year ago.

POSTAL RECEIPTS

City	Aug 1952	July 1952	Aug 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from Aug 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from July 1952
Total*	$4,964,406	$5,267,309	$4,572,052	+ 9	— 6
Alice	8,512	11,772	7,834	+ 9	— 28
Belton	4,291	5,544	4,381	— 2	— 23
Brownfield	4,804	7,596	4,364	+ 10	— 37
Childress	4,391	4,822	4,118	+ 7	— 9
Cleburne	9,559	8,931	8,405	+ 14	+ 7
Coleman	4,072	5,268	4,286	— 5	— 23
College Station	7,077	11,792	.....	.....	— 85
Cotulla	936	1,317	1,016	— 8	— 29
Crystal City	2,271	2,606	1,770	+ 28	— 13
Cuero	4,075	3,398	3,314	+ 23	+ 20
El Campo	6,605	6,442	6,564	+ 1	+ 3
Gainesville	7,747	8,837	6,653	+ 16	— 12
Gladewater	4,169	5,072	4,299	— 3	— 18
Goldthwaite	1,216	1,756	1,224	— 1	— 31
Graham	4,395	5,320	3,600	+ 22	— 17
Granbury	1,259	1,560	825	+ 53	— 19
Hillsboro	4,486	6,670	3,941	+ 14	— 33
Huntsville	5,490	6,295	6,082	— 10	— 13
Jacksonville	7,625	11,209	7,733	— 1	— 32
Kenedy	3,124	3,444	2,573	+ 21	— 9
Kerrville	6,797	8,245	6,822	x	— 18
Kingsville	7,258	9,210	.....	.....	— 21
La Grange	3,532	4,390	3,792	— 7	— 20
Littlefield	4,143	3,869	4,472	— 7	+ 7
Luling	2,534	2,413	2,822	— 10	+ 5
Mercedes	3,874	4,293	4,068	— 5	— 10
Mission	4,554	6,313	4,772	— 5	— 28
Navasota	3,520	3,423	2,249	+ 57	+ 3
New Braunfels	8,971	11,423	8,777	+ 2	— 22
Orange	12,998	15,059	11,726	+ 11	— 14
Palestine	8,141	10,462	7,983	+ 2	— 22
Pasadena	10,776	12,453	8,923	+ 21	— 13
Pharr	3,555	3,993	.....	.....	— 11
Snyder	7,494	9,956	7,605	— 1	— 25
Terrell	4,326	4,867	4,387	— 1	— 11
Uvalde	5,824	5,866	4,634	+ 26	— 1
Vernon	7,994	9,893	7,232	+ 11	— 19
Victoria	17,209	15,803	13,970	+ 23	+ 9
Waxahachie	7,478	7,748	7,657	— 2	— 3
Yoakum	10,206	9,332	8,814	+ 16	+ 9

*The total includes receipts for cities which are listed individually under "Local Business Conditions."
xChange is less than one half of one percent.

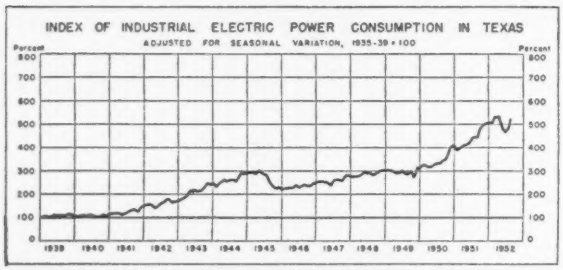
Sales of gasoline subject to tax totalled 265,885,000 gallons in July, 2% over June and 5% above July 1951. Gasoline sold to the federal government amounted to 57,917,000 gallons, 11% up from June and 7% above last year.

Postal receipts for August in 107 Texas cities slipped 6% from July but exceeded August 1951 by 9%. Twenty-three cities bettered July, but 75 cities topped August 1951.

A. HAMILTON CHUTE

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

Electric power in Texas. Industrial activity throughout the state soared upward again during August, as gauged by the 4% increase in the index of industrial electric power consumption. The gain brought the August



index value (512) within close range of the all-time high (538) set last April. Measured in kilowatt-hours, total power consumption this August was greater than during July (+11%) or during August 1951 (+20%).

ELECTRIC POWER CONSUMPTION
(in thousands of kilowatt-hours)

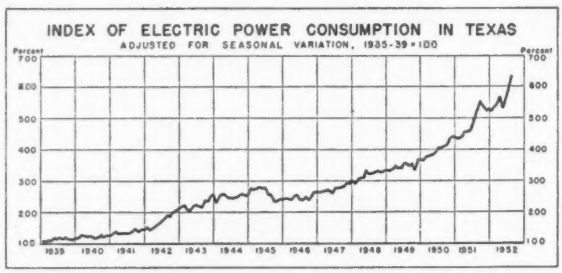
Use	July 1952	Aug 1952	July 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from Aug 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from July 1952
Total	1,346,906	1,214,024	1,119,063	+ 20	+ 11
Commercial	272,325	256,944	227,585	+ 20	+ 6
Industrial	538,609	500,424	474,336	+ 14	+ 8
Residential	238,688	221,340	229,995	+ 4	+ 8
Other	297,284	235,316	187,147	+ 59	+ 26

Prepared from reports of 10 electric power companies to the Bureau of Business Research.

Tin and disorder. Last April, Bolivia, the major source of ore for America's largest tin smelter, in Texas City, was rocked by revolution. By the time the Bolivian exports were recovering, the Texas City smelter was closed by a strike. So once again the United States was forced to look to its own stockpiles and, beyond that, to Malaya and Britain for the vital metal that is imported in greater value than any other. Tin is almost unique among metals in the distant separation of tin-mining centers from tin-consuming industries and nations. The United States, for example, which consumes 57% of the world production, mines virtually none, and the United Kingdom, second with 16% consumption, mines little but depends upon British colonies and political dominance overseas. (1945 figures.) Thus, most tin must travel half way around the earth from Bolivia and the Malaya-Indonesia region to its ultimate consumers.

Crude petroleum production. The Railroad Commission of Texas ordered a record-smashing oil production output of 3,268,813 barrels a day in October. This allowable was brought about by authorizing a general statewide production schedule of 23 days, with 18 days allowed in East Texas; the September schedule was for 22–19 producing days in the 30-day month. The cutback in East Texas producing days during October followed a drop of 2.84 pounds per square inch in the weighted average of bottomhole pressure in that field and was urged by the East Texas Oil Association on the grounds that well pressure in that field was not adequate to continue safely a 19-day producing month.

Petroleum stocks: Texas and U. S. The national total of crude oil stocks on August 30 was 266,585,000 barrels, of which 127,606,000 originated in Texas fields. August refinery stocks in Texas included larger quantities of distillate and kerosene than during July, a trend that closely matched the U. S. totals over the same period.



Well completions in Texas. During the four weeks ending August 30, a total of 1,282 wells were completed in the state, the largest number of them in West and North Central Texas. Of particular concern at present is the drilling pattern in the Spraberry trend of West Texas. Most of the field has been developed on the basis of 40 acres to a well, but operators now favor 80-acre spacing plus an additional 80-acre tolerance, giving a total of 160 acres of land to each well. Even on the 160-acre basis, the Railroad Commission was told that 1,800 new wells would be required to complete development of the main Spraberry field, which stretches across nine counties. Seventy percent of the Spraberry acreage is still undeveloped. Only about one tenth of the 10-billion-barrel deposit estimated to lie in the Spraberry area is recoverable by

WELL COMPLETIONS
Source: *The Oil and Gas Journal*

Region	August 1952* Oil	Gas	Dry	Total	January-August 1952	1951
Texas	719	95	468	1,282	11,989	11,140
North Central Texas	213	2	184	399	3,776	3,397
West Texas	290	3	86	379	3,726	3,350
Panhandle	21	32	13	66	469	471
Eastern Texas	41	5	35	81	651	813
Texas Gulf Coast	99	23	83	205	1,765	1,559
Southwest Texas	55	30	67	152	1,602	1,550

*For four weeks ending August 30, 1952.

present methods, and some producers favor waiting for more efficient production methods or until the price of crude oil rises before they expand their output.

Pipe lines tap Texas crude output. The petroleum industry has been engaged for some months in the biggest program of pipe-line construction in history, and many of the new lines will feed Texas oil to refining centers and to ports on both coasts. The new 557-mile West Texas-Gulf line with connections to Longview and also the Rancho line, stretching 463 miles from West Texas to Houston, will be able to move 468,000 barrels of crude daily to coastal refineries. Another major line will run 844 miles from Wink, Texas, to Norwalk, California, to help relieve the shortage of California crude, recently in heavy demand by the armed forces in the Far East.

Texas industrial expansion checklist:

1. Temco Aircraft Corporation in Dallas will produce single-jet F3H Demon planes for use as carrier-based fighters by the Navy. Described as "better than Russia's MIG15," details of the plane and of the Temco contract remain undisclosed.

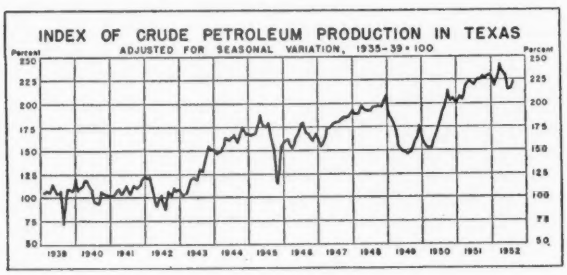
REPORTED PETROLEUM PRODUCTION
(in barrels)

Source: Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas

Oil and gas district	May 1952	Apr 1952	May 1951	Percent change: May 1952 from May 1951	Percent change: May 1952 from Apr 1952
All districts	69,741,262	85,186,965	84,520,767	— 17	— 18
District 1	1,002,832	980,992	1,027,729	— 2	+ 2
District 2	4,098,713	4,865,917	5,078,392	— 19	— 16
District 3	11,493,856	14,165,208	14,808,794	— 22	— 19
District 4	7,567,112	7,759,635	7,899,027	— 4	— 2
District 5	1,638,903	1,802,291	1,642,566	x	— 9
District 6	11,569,208	11,783,142	11,954,245	— 3	— 2
District 7b	2,273,256	2,770,250	2,562,474	— 11	— 18
District 7c	3,318,302	4,215,857	2,935,779	+ 13	— 21
District 8	20,246,004	29,513,786	29,101,401	— 30	— 31
District 9	4,142,302	4,895,365	4,904,401	— 16	— 15
District 10	2,390,774	2,433,522	2,605,839	— 8	— 2

xChange is less than one half of one percent.

2. In a $14.5-million sale, the Champion Paper and Fibre Company of Houston and the Kurth interests of Lufkin recently acquired 250,000 acres of timberland in Southeast Texas. Both lumber and pulp will be produced from these lands, and the supply will be maintained by a large-scale reforestation program.



REFINERY STOCKS
(in thousands of barrels)

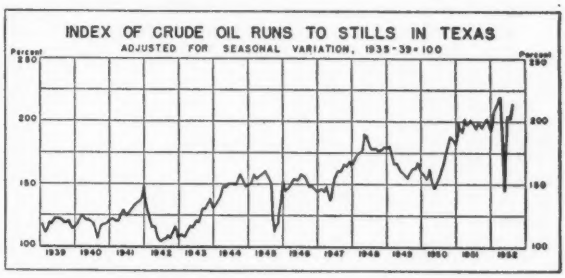
Source: *The Oil and Gas Journal*

Area and product	July 1952	Aug 1952	July 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from Aug 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from July 1952
United States					
Gasoline	117,240	116,243	115,201	+ 2	+ 1
Distillate	101,948	86,128	87,282	+ 17	+ 18
Residual	52,296	51,414	47,596	+ 10	+ 2
Kerosene	32,080	27,638	30,417	+ 5	+ 16
Texas					
Gasoline	20,159	20,195	21,800	— 8	x
Distillate	12,479	10,866	12,114	+ 3	+ 15
Residual	9,041	8,874	7,727	+ 17	+ 2
Kerosene	4,592	3,974	5,570	— 18	+ 16

Figures shown for week ending nearest last day of month.

3. Illuminating bombs for use in night aerial photography by the Air Force are now being made at the Longhorn Ordnance Works at Karnack. Pilot production of the 500-pound bombs began early in July at the beginning of a $15 million project contracted by the Universal Match Corporation.

4. Carbon electrolytic anodes are coming forth from the furnaces of the Rockdale works of Alcoa, preparatory to aluminum production, expected to start in November.



5. Groundwork is being laid for establishment of a six-station emergency weather radio network along the Texas-Louisiana coast. The Gulf Industries Weather Network plans to build six stations, at Brownsville, Corpus Christi, Victoria, Houston, Lake Charles and New Orleans, for the purpose of supplementing weather bureau facilities, issuing weather bulletins during critical or emergency situations, and gathering weather data. Land lines ordinarily used for weather dispatches are subject to storm and flood damage and to overloading in time of emergencies.

Natural gas production. Texas fields were tapped with 95 new gas wells during August, outlets for the resource that is being produced in over 10 times the volume this month that it was in the entire year of 1920 in Texas.

Total production during July, the most recent month for which complete data are available, amounted to 397,198 million cubic feet, 5% more than the July before but an explosive 377% increase from the average month

TEXAS INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY

Source: Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce, and State Comptroller of Public Accounts

Item	Aug 1952	July 1952	Aug 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from Aug 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from July 1952
Cotton (in running bales)					
Cotton consumed	11,602	11,456	11,666	— 1	+ 1
Linters consumed	2,881	2,662	3,032	— 5	+ 8
Cotton spindles (000's)					
Spindles in place	225	226	214	+ 5	x
Spindles active	210	207	200	+ 5	+ 1
Total spindle hours	82,000†	81,000	83,000	— 1	+ 1
Average spindle hours	364	358	388	— 6	+ 2
Cottonseed (tons)					
Received at mills	212,045	72,713	308,363	— 31	+192
Crushed	64,363	41,124	108,726	— 41	+ 57
Stocks, end-of-month	209,704	62,022	249,515	— 16	+238
Crude oil					
Value	$204,860	$218,138	$211,901	— 3	— 6
Production (bbls)	79,436	84,774	82,010	— 3	— 6
Runs to stills (bbls)	61,819	59,015	58,041	+ 7	+ 5
Value of natural and casinghead gas (000's)	$ 27,037	$ 27,430	$ 24,244	+ 12	— 1

xChange is less than one half of one percent.
†For four weeks ending August 30, 1952.

TOTAL AND MARKETED PRODUCTION OF NATURAL GAS

(in millions of cubic feet)

Source: Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas

Item	July 1952	June 1952	July 1951	Percent change: July 1952 from July 1951	Percent change: July 1952 from June 1952
Total production	397,198	384,791	379,386	+ 5	+ 3
Gas-well gas	296,472	286,253	277,875	+ 7	+ 4
Sweet gas	269,727	259,195	249,784	+ 8	+ 4
Sour gas	26,745	27,058	28,091	— 8	— 5
Casinghead gas*	100,726	98,538	101,511	— 1	+ 2
Marketed production	329,947	319,410	307,328	+ 7	+ 3
Gas-well gas	222,394	215,093	209,276	+ 6	+ 3
Casinghead gas	88,128	86,156	88,644	— 1	+ 2
Comingled gas†	19,425	18,161	9,408	+106	+ 7
Transmission lines	243,664	232,921	217,527	+ 12	+ 5
Consumed in state	84,063	73,535	78,705	+ 7	+ 14
Exported from state	159,601	159,386	138,822	+ 15	x
Percent of marketed production	48	50	45	+ 7	— 4
Carbon black manufacture	21,992	22,617	27,012	— 19	— 3

xChange is less than one half of one percent.

*Total casinghead gas produced, excluding gas legally vented at the oil well.

†Casinghead and gas-well gas combined in gasoline plant operations.

in 1940. Of the July total, more than a quarter consisted of casinghead gas, the gas produced from oil wells with the oil. Scarcely twenty-five years ago, this casinghead gas was looked upon as having no great value. Producers then had yet to learn of the hydrocarbon liquids that are now swept from the gas, and that some chemists today consider more valuable than the oil. Among these are natural gasoline, propane, and butane, all significant resources in their own right. The last named, butane, for example, is a basic raw material in the making of synthetic rubber (*see* "Synthetic Rubber in Texas," page 16).

Of the 582 natural gasoline and cycling plants in the nation this January, 224 were in Texas. And in capacity, Texas plants ranked even greater in proportion to the U. S. total. The propane and butane that they produce are familiar as domestic fuels. What may be less known is the fact that more than a billion gallons of them were processed last year in the nation's chemical plants and that this year Americans are using 25,000 times as much of these liquified petroleum gases as they did in 1922.

ROBERT H. RYAN

MANUFACTURE OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

Product	Aug 1952	July 1952	Aug 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from Aug 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from July 1952
Total production in milk equivalent (000's lbs)	48,764	53,515	59,343	— 18	— 19
Creamery butter (000's lbs)	580	600	580	0	— 3
Ice cream (000's gals)	2,556	2,618	3,155	— 18	— 2
American cheese (000's lbs)	323	426	420	— 23	— 24
Cottage cheese (000's lbs)	422	491	474	— 11	— 14
All others (000's lbs)	1,260	2,395	2,333	— 46	— 47

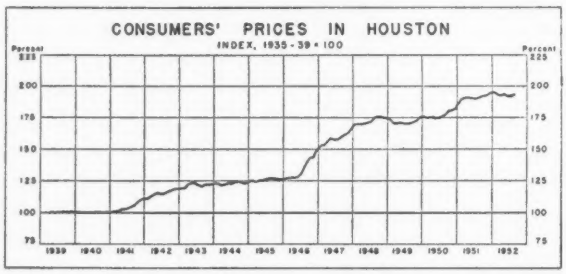
Milk equivalent of dairy products is calculated from production data.

PRICES

National cost-of-living peak. For the sixth consecutive month the national cost-of-living index continued to creep upward, establishing once again a new all-time high. Apparently the relative stability which was evident earlier in the year has given ground to moderate inflationary tendencies. August's gain, however, was scarcely measurable. The Bureau of Labor Statistics mid-month Consumers' Price Index stood at 191.1 (1935–39 = 100) as compared with 190.8 for July. Current prices are 12.3% above the pre-Korean level of June 1950 and over 3% higher than the 185.5 index value of August 1951.

Slight price advances were measured in all major retail groups except apparel and housefurnishings during August. The biggest gains were recorded in fuels, up 0.9% from the preceding month's measure. Retail foods and rents rose approximately 0.3%. Apparel sales were down 0.1%.

Gain of Texas prices. Prices in Texas, as gauged by the Bureau of Labor Statistics index of prices in Houston, made bigger gains than did the national average.



The new index was up to 196.0, almost a full point above the 195.1 recorded for August. Food costs accounted for most of the gain, primarily as a result of price increases in eggs (+ 21.1%), pork (+ 8.6%), and chicken (+ 3.5%). Residential rents (+ 0.5%) and housefurnishings (+ 0.3%) made slight gains. Meanwhile, apparel items continued their decline (— 0.4%) for the fifth consecutive month.

While prices are going up for Texans more rapidly than for the nation as a whole, Texas is still lagging behind the average per capita income. Figures released by the U. S. Department of Commerce reveal that the average income for each person in Texas rose from $1,276 in 1950 to $1,412 in 1951, an increase of 14%. Nevertheless, the national per capita income figure in 1951 stood at $1,584, aproximately 11% higher than the Texas average for the same year. Therefore, the rise in the Consumers' Price Index, which rather closely follows the trend of the over-all price level, is being felt more sharply in the Lone Star State than in the nation as a whole.

Varying price predictions. Predictions of government experts indicate that the high cost of living is to stay near its current all-time peak for the coming month at least. Continued increases in the cost of pork, poultry, and dairy products are expected, although dips in the prices of a few items, such as beefsteak, are foreseen. Rents may be affected in the months to come by the local actions taken by individual communities. During the final week of September, local governments in all but critical

areas decided whether to continue rent controls or to let them expire automatically.

Government officials cannot agree on the probable effects on future price levels of the ceiling increase recently granted steel manufacturers. OPS Chief Ellis Arnall believes the new increase will take an additional $100 yearly from the pocketbook of the average American family; he has gone so far as to suggest to the President that it may be necessary to call a special session of Congress to tighten the economic controls law. Of the opposite opinion are Economic Stabilizer Putnam, who sees no sign of a coming inflationary spiral, and Secretary of Commerce Sawyer, who points to growing buyer resistance as proof that "alarmist statements of action are not warranted and not helpful."

INDEXES OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN THE UNITED STATES
(1947–49=100)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor

Index	1952* Sept 9	1952* Sept 2	Aug 1952	Sept 1951
All commodities	111.5	111.7	112.1	113.4
Farm products	107.2	107.9	109.9	109.9
Food	110.3	110.7	110.5	110.9
All others	112.6	112.8	112.9	114.8

*Estimates of the index for the week ending on date given.

Other government and some private farm economists expect agricultural surpluses leading to price reductions. The price support program, they believe, could get its best workout yet, in the months ahead. They cite the changing demand-supply situation in many crops. Even after the tolls of the drought have been written off, this year's crops may approach the record volumes recorded in 1948 and 1949. Wheat, cotton, wool, and tobacco supplies may be well above demand, particularly if foreign purchases of these products continue their current downward trend. This situation leads many farm economists to predict a government investment in crops at a record $2.5 billion for the year.

Coming changes in price controls. Price controls are being lifted from more and more products. August saw the end of controls on radios, television sets, record players, carpets, and bedding, all of which were already selling below ceiling prices. And reports are that additional major changes are being planned now and that in time most business will be decontrolled. The real emphasis of the control program that remains will be on the materials used by industry—steel, chemicals, fibers, and such commodities. Thus the agency will try to keep down prices of the finished goods by controlling the basic constituents.

Resumed downward wholesale trend. After a short-lived gain in August, the Bureau of Labor Statistics Wholesale Price Index resumed its 18-month-old downtrend. By September 9, the index had dropped to 111.5 from the August value of 112.1. A year ago, an index point of 113.4 was registered. Price reductions in farm products were responsible for the lion's share of this drop; the farm component declined from 109.9 to 107.2 during the month. The opposite directions of wholesale and retail prices remains unexplained. Predictions that the widening gap between the two will soon begin to close are still being made.

INDEXES OF CONSUMERS' PRICES
(1935–39=100)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor

Index	Aug 15 1952*	July 15 1952	Aug 15 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from Aug 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from July 1952
United States, all items†	191.1	190.8	185.5	+ 3	x
Food	235.5	234.9	227.0	+ 4	x
Clothing	201.1	201.4	203.6	— 1	x
Rent	142.3	141.9	136.8	+ 4	x
Fuel group	147.3	146.4	144.2	+ 2	+ 1
Housefurnishings	204.2	204.2	210.8	— 3	0
Miscellaneous	173.2	173.0	165.4	+ 5	x
Houston, all items†	196.0	195.1	193.0	+ 2	x
Food	242.8	239.7	237.2	+ 2	+ 1
Clothing	216.8	217.6	221.1	— 2	x
Rent	173.0	‡	168.6	+ 3	—
Fuel group	103.1	103.1	98.6	+ 5	0
Housefurnishings	202.9	202.2	203.8	x	x
Miscellaneous	172.9	172.9	169.2	+ 2	0

xChange is less than one half of one percent.
*Preliminary.
†Comparison of indexes in different series (e.g. Houston and U.S.) does not show absolute relationships of prices in the areas or cities surveyed.
‡Not surveyed.

High per-family expenditures. The national high cost of living was given an additional spotlight during the month by the release of a Bureau of Labor Statistics report on the finances of urban families in 1950. The study, covering 11,000 families in 91 cities ranging in population from 2,500 upward, revealed that the "average" urban family made $4,300 a year—but spent $4,700. One of two things must be happening. Either the average American has developed loose spending habits or he is being forced into debt by the high cost of living. But it can be argued quite logically that 1950 was not a typical year. The Korean war brought about "scare" buying, leading to an abnormal peak in sales. Then, too, much of the consumer deficit could have been made up out of past personal savings.

RAYMOND V. LESIKAR

Bureau of Business Research Publications

A Survey of Bank and Department Store Employee Handbooks

William R. Spriegel, Dean and Distinguished Professor of Management, and

E. Lanham, Assistant Professor of Management, both of the College of Business Administration, The University of Texas.

This study analyzes the practices of 193 leading banks and department stores throughout the nation in regard to their use of handbooks and printed guides for employees. Price, one dollar.

AGRICULTURE

The years of the drought. In spite of spectacular floods and excessive rainfall during mid-September, the basic drought conditions persist in Texas, and agricultural specialists have continued to be preoccupied with its results. The preliminary estimates of crop losses, made during August, were revised upwards to $100 million at the beginning of the month by the State Agricultural Commissioner. According to the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, this drought, the most acute in the history of the state, has now lasted for an average of 27 months; in South Texas, the period exceeds 34 months. Generally, the whole of the state west of a line from Montague to Cameron counties is suffering from drought conditions, although in the eastern portion of the state, and particularly in the coastal area, rainfall has been normal.

During the third week in September, the first supplies of hay acquired under Public Law 875 began to be shipped into the state. The cost varies between $28 and $36 a ton, according to the quality of the hay. It is possible that the initial demand for emergency fodder supplies in the drought areas will be minimized, for while the heavy rains have not materially altered the long-range picture, livestock raisers in particular have benefited from their immediate effects. Range water supplies which were running low have been augmented, and it is probable that pastures will also improve during the next few weeks. In consequence, the abnormally heavy cattle runs should be checked, and prices that have reflected the heavy volume of marketings should be stabilized.

Price declines. The accompanying index table of prices received illustrates the substantial price losses which livestock raisers have suffered. Livestock and livestock products at mid-August were generally bringing

INDEXES OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS IN TEXAS

(1909–14=100)

Source: Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture

Product	Aug 15 1952	July 15 1952	Aug 15 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from Aug 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from July 1952
All farm products	333	333	343	— 3	0
All crops	312	302	279	+ 12	+ 3
Food grains	238	235	231	+ 3	+ 1
Feed grains and hay	230	224	198	+ 16	+ 3
Potatoes and sweet potatoes	375	329	204	+ 84	+ 14
Fruit	242	242	47	+415	0
Truck crops	462	470	395	+ 17	— 2
Cotton	310	297	285	+ 9	+ 4
Oil-bearing crops	336	325	329	+ 2	+ 3
Livestock and products	361	374	428	— 16	— 3
Meat animals	425	462	538	— 21	— 8
Dairy products	281	274	264	+ 6	+ 3
Poultry and eggs	269	233	266	+ 1	+ 15
Wool	342	348	466	— 27	— 2

16% less than during August 1951, and this loss was of sufficient magnitude to depress the index for prices received for all farm products from 343 to 333. On the other hand, the index of prices received for all crops stood 12% higher at mid-August than at the corresponding time last year and had increased 3% over the previous month.

FARM CASH INCOME

(in thousands)

Commodity	January-August 1952	January-August 1951	Percent change
Texas	$882,729	$1,044,055	— 15
Cotton	122,260	223,495	— 45
Cottonseed	28,654	43,248	— 34
Wheat	54,141	19,975	+171
Oats	6,097	6,128	— 1
Corn	10,248	12,693	— 19
Grain sorghum	38,237	41,877	— 9
Flaxseed	3,159	248	+1174
Peanuts	1,937	4,592	— 58
Rice	5,054	4,258	+ 19
Cattle	197,983	247,680	— 20
Calves	47,593	63,667	— 25
Hogs	22,397	26,611	— 16
Sheep and lambs	15,101	23,542	— 36
Wool	21,269	37,383	— 43
Mohair	9,055	8,222	+ 10
Poultry	43,389	38,765	+ 12
Eggs	50,348	57,624	— 13
Milk and milk products	151,989	140,846	+ 8
Fruit and vegetables	53,818	43,201	+ 25

Farm cash income as computed by the Bureau understates actual farm cash income by from 6 to 10%. This situation results from the fact that means of securing complete local marketings, especially by truck, have not yet been fully developed. In addition, means have not yet been developed for computing cash income from all agricultural specialties of local importance in scattered areas. This situation does not impair the accuracy of the index shown on page 24.

In spite of the acclivity in unit prices, however, cumulative income of Texas farmers during the first eight months of 1952 lagged 15% behind the comparable 1951 total. After the wheat depression of last year, revenue from that crop rose 171%. Even more spectacular, flaxseed income was up 1,174% from 1951 to 1952. But those two gains were the most impressive ones, and for the most part, income from the commodities produced in greatest quantity was considerably lower than during the same months of 1951. This was conspicuously true in the livestock categories, for cattle (—20%), calves (—25%), hogs (—16%), and sheep and lambs (—36%) all brought raisers appreciably less revenue than they did last year.

Truck crops. The U. S. Department of Agriculture preliminary estimate of the late fall tomato crop indicates that 11,200 acres are under cultivation, principally in the Rio Grande Valley. This acreage is more than 130% greater than that harvested last year and is substantially larger than the 1941–50 average of 10,150 acres under cultivation for this crop. Some delay in setting has occurred in the Lower Valley because of the adverse drought conditions, but this has not yet had any serious effect upon plantings. Marketings of the tomato crop are expected to be in full volume by November 10.

The indicated acreage of 1953 winter cabbage plantings in Texas is approximately 30,000 acres. This figure is below the 10-year average of 33,400 acres for the state, but like tomato plantings is considerably greater than last year's 18,000 acres planted. Assuming an average yield of 4.7 tons per acre, production should exceed 140,000 tons.

Winter plantings of commercial early Irish potatoes have dwindled to 300 acres, compared with 500 acres harvested last year.

Sheep prices. The Office of Price Stabilization has announced that the ceiling-price schedule on yearlings and muttons is to be removed, and at the same time, compulsory grading is to be abolished, although price ceilings on wholesale lamb carcasses are being retained. Grading of yearlings and muttons will now be on a voluntary basis, and Texas sheep producers have expressed satisfaction with the abrogation of the controls. In particular, the stocker lamb market is expected to strengthen during the fall, with the buying of lambs for the winter fattening and spring sales next year.

ALFRED G. DALE

Bureau of Business Research Publications

Reprints from the Texas Business Review:

The following list shows the available selection of special articles reprinted from the Texas Business Review. Copies will be sent on request to anyone interested.

1. Castor Beans: A Commercial Oil Seed Crop for Texas.—S. A. Arbingast.
2. Texas Shrimp and Oysters.—R. H. Ryan.
3. Review of 1951.—S. A. Arbingast.
4. Interest Revived in Texas Lignite.—S. A. Arbingast.
5. Availability of Detailed Foreign Trade Statistics.—W. N. Breswick.
6. The Future of Tourism in Texas.—F. H. Etheridge.
7. The Aircraft Industry in Texas.—R. V. Lesikar.
8. Metals Industries in Texas.—S. A. Arbingast.
9. An Expanded Ceramics Industry in Texas? —A. G. Dale.

Also available are reprints of an article appearing in *The Southwestern Social Science Quarterly,* xxxiii, June, 1952, entitled "Shell, a Marine Resource of the Texas Coast," by Stanley A. Arbingast, Assistant Director, Bureau of Business Research.

SHIPMENTS OF LIVESTOCK

(in carloads)*

Source: Bureau of Business Research in cooperation with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture

Classification	Aug 1952	July 1952	Aug 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from Aug 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from July 1952
Total shipments	6,436	6,149	6,303	+ 2	+ 5
Cattle	1,533	3,995	1,611	— 5	— 62
Calves	629	694	1,243	— 49	— 9
Hogs	337	589	491	— 31	— 43
Sheep	3,938	871	2,958	+ 33	+352
Interstate plus Fort Worth	6,256	6,040	5,918	+ 6	+ 4
Cattle	1,516	3,923	1,522	x	— 61
Calves	617	682	1,146	— 46	— 10
Hogs	321	576	474	— 32	— 44
Sheep	3,802	859	2,777	+ 37	+343
Intrastate minus Fort Worth†	180	109	385	— 53	+ 65
Cattle	16	72	89	— 82	— 78
Calves	12	12	97	— 88	0
Hogs	16	13	17	— 6	+ 23
Sheep	136	12	182	— 25	+1033

*Rail-car basis: cattle, 30 head per car; calves, 60; hogs, 80; and sheep, 250.

†Intrastate truck shipments are not included. Fort Worth shipments are combined with interstate forwardings in order that the bulk of market disappearance for the month may be shown.

COTTON

Short crop in prospect. Cotton in prospect for the U. S. during the cotton year 1952–53 is approximately 16.6 million bales plus imports. This is about 2.8 million less than last year.

Demand for cotton by U. S. mills is strong, and mill buying during the next month should be heavy, for mills have the best margin they have had in over a year. This strong domestic demand is currently offset by a weakness in foreign demand due to large stocks of American cotton in most foreign markets and to lower prices of foreign-grown cotton in comparison to the American price levels.

The coming October estimate of production will be the most important event affecting cotton prices in the immediate future. A change of as much as 300,000 bales either way in the September 8 estimate would influence the market substantially.

A. B. Cox

COTTON BALANCE SHEET FOR THE UNITED STATES AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 1952

(in thousands of running bales except as noted)

Year	Carryover Aug 1	Imports to Sept 1*	Government estimate Sept 1	Total	Consumption to Sept 1	Exports to Sept 1	Total	Balance as of Sept 1
1943–44	10,687	3	11,679	22,369	843	310	1,153	21,216
1944–45	10,727	2	11,483	22,212	842	33	875	21,337
1945–46	11,160	15	10,020	21,195	738	188	926	20,269
1946–47	7,522	18	9,171	16,711	856	413	1,269	15,422
1947–48	2,521	20	11,849	14,390	711	49	760	13,360
1948–49	2,823	22	15,219*	18,064	729	115	844	17,420
1949–50	5,283	†	14,943	20,226	664	178	842	19,384
1950–51	6,700	20‡	9,882	16,582	808	200	1,008‡	15,574
1951–52	2,179	†	17,291	19,470	754	186‡	940	18,720
1952–53	2,745	†	13,889	16,634	744	†	744	15,890

The cotton year begins August 1.

*In 478 pound bales.

†Not available.

‡Estimated.

LABOR

Drought increases labor force. The most severe drought in the history of Texas (*see* "Agriculture," page 12) has had the effect of increasing the nonfarm civilian labor pool. The Texas Employment Commission reports that the current shortage of farm work in some of the drought-stricken areas has driven laborers into cities in search of work.

During August these new arrivals were partly responsible for a gain of 650 in the labor force at Abilene. While total employment in the area rose by 600, unemployment increased by 50, for not all new entrants were immediately absorbed. Jobs in construction, oil production, and other outside work were being sought, while farm employment, estimated at 2,100 during August, registered a loss of 200 from the previous month.

In Fort Worth a slump of 200 in farm laborers was more than offset by an increase of 600 in nonfarm employment. Here also, the drought accounted for some of the rise in the total employment. As farmers continued to bring their livestock to the market before anticipated dates because of the extremely dry conditions, an unexpected demand for workers in the meat packing industries was experienced.

This and other rises in employment—expansion in the garment industry, an increase in retail trade, and more—brought the total in Fort Worth to 162,700 for August, while unemployment fell by 300 to total 7,000. For this period the ratio of the unemployed to the total labor force was 4.1%, slightly above the 3.2% recorded for the average of all 17 labor markets in the state.

Houston unemployment down. The number of jobless decreased by 2,000 from July to a total of 8,400 in August. With the settlement of nearly all the labor disputes in the Houston-Baytown labor market area, employment conditions have shown an improvement. Although workers involved in labor-management disputes are not customarily termed to be among the unemployed, these differences do tend to cause unemployment in industries dependent upon the materials manufactured or processed at plants shut down by strikes. The TEC reported that employment totalled 348,000 in August, with a further increase expected this fall.

FRANK T. CADENA

Bureau of Business Research Publications

Directory of Texas Manufacturers

New 1952 Edition

This authoritative listing of Texas manufacturing firms is now available. The directory is complete with information on the ownership, address, number of employees, distribution, and products of each company. All firms are classified by location, and all are cross-indexed by products in a yellow-page section. Cities with populations over 2,500 are described in terms of their regional resources, transportation facilities, and market. Orders for first-run copies of this $3.50 publication are now being accepted by the Bureau of Business Research.

FINANCE

Congress and bank reserves. The issuance last June of the report of the Subcommittee on General Credit Control and Debt Management of the Joint Committee on the Economic Report, headed by Congressman Wright Patman of Texas, once again focused attention on the question of commercial bank reserve requirements. In this area, the subcommittee recommended that "all banks which accept demand deposits, including both member and nonmember banks of the Federal Reserve System, be made subject to the same set of reserve requirements. . . ."

CHANGES IN CONDITION OF WEEKLY-REPORTING MEMBER BANKS IN THE DALLAS DISTRICT

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

Item	Percent change: Aug 1952 from Aug 1951	Aug 1952 from July 1952	Aug 1951 from July 1951
Assets			
Loans and investments	+ 14	+ 1	+ 1
Loans	+ 14	+ 4	+ 1
Total U.S. Government securities	+ 17	— 2	+ 2
Treasury bills	+ 18	— 17	+ 21
Treasury certificates of indebtedness	+ 48	0	+ 10
Treasury notes	— 17	+ 1	— 7
Bonds	+ 23	+ 1	x
Other securities	— 1	+ 1	+ 2
Reserve with Federal Reserve Banks	+ 4	— 1	+ 9
Cash in vaults	+ 2	— 2	+ 11
Balances with domestic banks	+ 7	0	— 4
Liabilities			
Total deposits (except interbank)	+ 9	— 2	+ 2
Demand deposits (adjusted)	+ 8	x	+ 2
Time deposits	+ 10	x	x
U.S. Government deposits	+ 48	— 30	+ 4
Interbank deposits	+ 18	+ 9	+ 5
Domestic banks	+ 18	+ 10	+ 5
Foreign banks	+ 29	— 10	0
Capital accounts	+ 13	+ 1	+ 1

Percentage comparisons are based on week ending nearest the close of the calendar month.

xChange is less than one half of one percent.

Commercial banks in this country have long been subject to such requirements. The restrictions usually take the form of specifications as to the form and location of some bank asset or assets that must be maintained as a percentage of deposits. In practically all instances, the reserves are in the form of cash or cash items, not the gold or silver popular in earlier days. Today, deposits in commercial or central banks usually serve the purpose.

Purpose of reserve requirements. The original function of reserve requirements was to assure the liquidity of individual commercial banks. Today it is recognized, however, that such requirements may actually reduce bank liquidity, since certain cash assets are im-

BUSINESS FAILURES

Source: Dun & Bradstreet, Inc.

Item	Aug 1952	July 1952	Aug 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from Aug 1951	Aug 1952 from July 1952
Number	12	12	6	+100	0
Liabilities (in thousands)	$ 786	$ 367	$ 511	+ 54	+144
Average liabilities per failure (in thousands)	$ 66	$ 31	$ 85	— 22	+113

mobilized by the requirements. It is therefore argued that the true function of reserve requirements lies in another direction: to limit the total amount of bank deposits in existence, or, when requirements can be manipulated by authorities, to serve as an instrument of credit control. In the United States, all Federal Reserve member banks are subject to control of the latter type, while the remaining banks operate under state laws, which vary considerably. At present, member banks are classified according to location as (*a*) central reserve city banks (located in New York and Chicago), (*b*) reserve city banks (located in approximately 60 "reserve cities"), or (*c*) "country" banks for reserve requirement purposes. Central reserve city banks must hold deposits in Federal Reserve Banks amounting to at least 24% of net demand deposits, while the comparable figures for reserve city and "country" banks are 20 and 14%, respectively. Requirements for reserves against time deposits are a uniform 6% for all member banks. The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System is authorized by Congress to manipulate these requirements within certain limits. For example, demand deposit requirements for central reserve city banks can be varied between the limits of 13 and 26%; the limits for reserve city banks are 10–20%, and the "country" bank minimum-maximum bounds are 7 and 14%.

The reserve system: 1952 model. The Board has a powerful instrument of credit control at its disposal in the manipulation of these requirements. However, the limitations placed on such utilization by Congress has seriously restricted the use of this instrument during the period of the postwar inflation. In addition, it is argued that the variation in requirements based on the location of banks is illogical. A further weakness lies in the fact that of the 14,000 commercial banks in the United States, only about 6,800 are members of the Federal Reserve System and are subject to the Board's rulings on reserves. The strength of this objection is considerably reduced, however, when it is noted that these member banks hold approximately 85% of total commercial deposits.

It has been argued, however, (as in the Patman Report) that from the point of view of equity alone, all commercial banks should be subject to uniform reserve requirements determined on a national level. In the past, Federal Reserve authorities have expressed concern that a particularly restrictive anti-inflationary program might induce a wholesale exodus of state member banks from the System. Many commercial bankers, on the other hand, stoutly oppose extension of such requirements to nonmember banks, arguing that such action would be one more step in the direction of completely centralized control of banking at the federal level and eventual elimination of our dual system of state and national bank charters.

There is little likelihood that the recommendation of the Patman group will be acted upon by Congress in the near future; indeed, the same recommendation, made by the Douglas Subcommittee in 1950, has still received no congressional action. However, there is always the possibility that a recurrence of strong inflationary pressure might persuade Congress to strenghten Federal Reserve control over commercial bank reserves.

CHARLS E. WALKER

FEDERAL INTERNAL REVENUE COLLECTIONS

Source: Office of the Collector, Internal Revenue Service, Treasury Department

Source	July 1-August 31 1951–52	1950–51	Percent change
Texas	$ 267,119,378	$ 211,995,554	+ 26
Income	66,553,972	49,126,704	+ 35
Employment	2,361,475	1,637,215	+ 44
Withholding	171,354,446	136,442,115	+ 26
Other	26,849,485	24,789,520	+ 8
First District	143,276,845	106,068,178	+ 35
Income	37,616,670	22,064,432	+ 70
Employment	122,907	105,258	+ 17
Withholding	91,327,315	71,898,941	+ 27
Other	14,209,953	11,999,547	+ 18
Second District	123,842,533	105,927,376	+ 17
Income	28,937,302	27,062,272	+ 7
Employment	2,238,568	1,531,957	+ 46
Withholding	80,027,131	64,543,174	+ 24
Other	12,639,532	12,789,973	— 1

REVENUE RECEIPTS OF STATE COMPTROLLER

Source: State Comptroller of Public Accounts

Source	September 1-August 31 1951–52	1950–51	Percent change
Total	$682,835,693	$614,602,730	+ 11
Ad valorem taxes	24,256,967	33,843,360	— 28
Natural and casinghead gas production taxes	18,018,955	14,245,990	+ 26
Crude oil production taxes	119,667,153	111,849,037	+ 7
Net motor fuel taxes	104,854,775	95,787,503	+ 9
Insurance companies occupation taxes	15,407,606	13,429,505	+ 15
Cigarette tax and licenses	35,284,873	33,695,187	+ 5
Alcoholic beverage taxes and licenses	18,480,815	17,215,002	+ 7
Automobile and other sales taxes	18,394,764	16,993,615	+ 8
Other licenses and fees	13,811,239	6,167,686	+124
Franchise taxes	14,029,074	9,838,127	+ 43
Mineral leases, rentals, and bonuses	22,801,526	13,675,139	+ 67
Oil and gas royalties	17,834,342	16,874,627	+ 6
Interest on securities owned	11,898,217	10,162,773	+ 17
Motor vehicle licenses, permits, and other	36,064,861	33,117,269	+ 9
Federal aid—highways	31,215,775	21,171,143	+ 47
Federal aid—public health	9,615,455	12,367,575	— 22
Federal aid—public welfare	73,628,518	76,591,312	— 4
Federal aid—public education	18,336,241	17,702,180	+ 4
Unemployment compensation taxes	22,423,936	20,148,532	+ 11
All other receipts	56,810,601	39,727,168	+ 43

LOANS MADE BY SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS

Source: Federal Home Loan Bank of Little Rock

Type	Aug 1952	July 1952	Aug 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from Aug 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from July 1952
Number	3,009	3,385	2,670	+ 13	— 11
Construction	684	773	586	+ 17	— 12
Purchase	1,020	1,056	870	+ 17	— 3
Refinancing	254	327	224	+ 13	— 22
Reconditioning	367	396	292	+ 26	— 7
Other	684	833	698	— 2	— 18
Value (thousands)	$14,792	$16,036	$11,623	+ 27	— 8
Construction	4,702	5,404	3,550	+ 32	— 13
Purchase	5,792	5,926	4,752	+ 22	— 2
Refinancing	1,397	1,634	973	+ 44	— 15
Reconditioning	885	986	767	+ 15	— 10
Other	2,016	2,086	1,581	+ 28	— 3

Notes on the Industrialization of Texas:

Synthetic Rubber in Texas

Of all the new products developed in petrochemical research laboratories, substances literally man-built from the complex hydrocarbon molecules of petroleum and natural gas, one group has given rise to an entire new industry: the making of synthetic rubber. The term *synthetic rubber,* however , is something of a misnomer, for the products called that are not chemically identical with natural rubber, but only possess some of the physical properties—toughness, elasticity, electrical nonconductivity, softness, and impermeability—that make rubber an essential material in modern civilization. The term *elastomer,* which describes any rubberlike substance, is more accurate, though not so widely used.

Texas took an early lead in the making of synthetic elastomers and their ingredients, and now in 1952 the state produces over 40% of the rubber made by copolymerization and nearly half the national output of butyl rubber. More, the accelerating demand for rubber points to a long-range growth for this Texas industry, existent plants are being expanded, and there has been some movement of raw-materials-oriented and market-oriented rubber fabricating industries into Texas and the Southwest.

It was during the late thirties and early forties that U. S. dependence upon foreign rubber sources became painfully apparent and, as war production swung into action, critical. Hoping to develop a domestic supply, the government sponsored a program for the manufacture of GR-S (Government Rubber-Styrene) and other synthetic elastomers. In 1941, U. S. production amounted to 10,000 tons; by the end of the war, the annual figure had risen to 850,000 long tons, 200,000 tons more than total prewar annual needs. Present capacity is about one million long tons.

Texas, with its rich resources, was chosen for the location of a major portion of the government-financed rubber plants. Butadiene had been produced here on a small scale as early as 1941, and since then, expansion of this industry in Texas has been uninterrupted except for a recession in activity just after the war.

Some factors causing this expansion are clear enough. Texas can supply most raw materials for rubber manufacture from within its borders: refinery gases, which yield butylenes and other chemicals; petroleum, from which comes benzol and ethylene; natural gas, major source of the carbon black used to reinforce rubber; sulfur for vulcanization; and also salt, lime, and clays, which have important uses in rubber synthesis. The fabrication of Texas elastomers in Texas followed soon after the construction of the rubber plants themselves.

GOVERNMENT-OWNED RUBBER PLANTS*

Source: *Chemical and Engineering News,* August 4, 1952

Operator and location	Approximate production capacity (long tons per year)
Copolymer	
Goodyear Synthetic Rubber Corp., Houston	87,000
B. F. Goodrich Chemical Co., Port Neches	78,000
United States Rubber Co., Port Neches	76,000
Phillips Chemical Co., Borger	54,000
General Tire and Rubber Co., Baytown	37,000
Butyl rubber	
Humble Oil and Refining Co., Baytown	40,000
Total synthetic rubber	372,000
Butadiene from butylenes	
Neches Butane Products Co., Port Neches	168,000
Sinclair Rubber Inc., Houston	78,000
Humble Oil and Refining Co., Baytown	45,000
Butadiene from butane	
Phillips Chemical Co., Borger	60,000
Total butadiene	351,000

*Some ingredients for synthetic rubber and plastics are produced by private enterprise in Texas. Monsanto's styrene unit at Texas City is an example.

During World War II, the General Tire and Rubber Company chose Waco as the site of a new plant. At the time, not only was the national market for synthetic rubber products swollen with war needs, but also the future industrial development of the Southwest was manifest in the mineral resource pattern of the region, the favorable distributing location, and the growing population of Texas and adjacent states. It was with an eye to all these factors

The A B C's of Synthetic Rubber

Butadiene: A basic building block in the making of synthetic elastomers, particularly GR-S (Buna S), which requires 1,610 pounds of butadiene per long ton; it is made in Texas primarily from butane and butenes from refinery gases but can also be derived from alcohol and various other hydrocarbons.

Styrene: The second major constituent of GR-S (about 600 pounds per long ton). Benzene is alkylated with ethylene and the resulting ethylbenzene is catalytically dehydrogenated to yield styrene. This plastic also has considerable markets outside the synthetic elastomer field, and only a part of the Texas output is used in rubbers.

Copolymer: A chemical combination of two or more different monomers, such as butadiene and styrene. GR-S, as well as other synthetic elastomers, falls into this class.

Butyl rubber: Called GR-I, this is a copolymer of isobutane (about 98%) and isoprene or butadiene (2%). The outstanding attributes of butyl rubber are its impermeability to gases and its resistance to chemical attack and aging; these characteristics recommend it for use in inner tubes, steam hose, and also in high-temperature conveyer belts.

PRODUCTION IN GOVERNMENT-OWNED PLANTS
(Approximate production capacity)

State	Copolymer		Butyl rubber		Butadiene from butylenes		Butadiene from butane	
	Production capacity (000 pounds a year)	Percent of total	Production capacity (000 pounds a year)	Percent of total	Production capacity (000 pounds a year)	Percent of total	Production capacity (000 pounds a year)	Percent of total
United States	1,702,400	100.0	179,200	100.0	750,000	100.0	210,000	100.0
Texas	743,680	43.7	89,600	50.0	582,000	77.6	120,000	57.1
California	170,240	10.0	———	———	———	———	90,000	42.9
Kentucky	82,880	4.9	———	———	———	———	———	———
Louisiana	288,960	17.0	89,600	50.0	168,000	22.4	———	———
Ohio	107,520	6.3	———	———	———	———	———	———
West Virginia	253,120	14.9	———	———	———	———	———	———
Connecticut	56,000	3.2	———	———	———	———	———	———

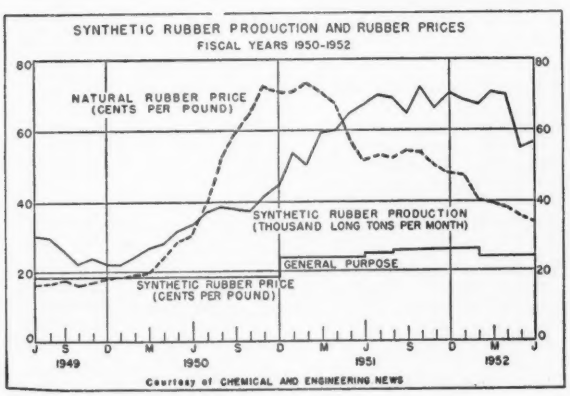
Other government-financed facilities include: butadiene from alcohol—Kentucky, 140,000 pounds a year (40% of U.S. production) and Pennsylvania, 210,000 pounds a year (60%); and styrene—California, 114,000 pounds a year.

as well as to the available labor supply at Waco that the plant-site was chosen. Since then, tires made in Waco have been shipped from coast to coast as market needs have indicated.*

Most important, the General plant fabricates only Texas-made synthetic rubber, more than 23 million pounds of it last year, from which over 1.4 million tires were made with the additional use of an unstated amount of natural rubber, used in proportions determined largely by government regulation. Synthetic rubber used at Waco comes from the General Tire and Rubber Company co-polymer-process plant at Baytown.

Although the only other tire manufacturing plant in the Southwest is located at Miami, Oklahoma, it can be assumed that other large users of rubber will eventually come to Texas and adjoining states. Manufacturers of oil and gas field equipment and aircraft specialties use considerable amounts now; their needs may probably increase. Makers of miscellaneous rubber consumer-goods will also doubtless establish production in Texas, the better to serve local markets. One such market-oriented industry is a plant, expected to begin operation in Bryan in 1953, which will manufacture soles and heels. Such a plant might use considerable quantities of synthetic elastomers. The price differential, which now generally favors the use of synthetics over natural rubber, is graphically shown on the accompanying chart.

*Personal communication from H. J. Korsmo, Factory Manager of the Waco Plant, General Tire and Rubber Company, July 15, 1952.



A recent event of significance in the industry has been the development of cold rubber. Automobile tires treaded with cold rubber are said to wear 15 to 30% longer than conventional synthetic treads. While the earlier polymers were made at relatively high temperatures (GR-S at 122° F.), cold rubber is polymerized from butadiene and styrene in an emulsion system close to the freezing point of water. Conversion to this process is already complete in some plants and is now underway at the U. S. Rubber installation at Port Neches, which will also be increased 30,000 tons in capacity.

Another new technique, a method of pigmentation known as *masterbatching*, offers large savings in power costs by enabling the producer to incorporate pigments such as carbon black and clay into the rubber while it is still in liquid form. A step in the old process is thus eliminated, and a product of high quality and uniformity is achieved. These two new processes and others also have resulted from the accelerated research program in synthetic rubber production and in the reclamation of old rubber.

The Reconstruction Finance Corporation recently launched a research and development program, estimated to cost well over $6 million, in which universities and rubber manufacturers' research divisions will cooperate. Surprisingly, no college or university in Texas will participate in the program; all cooperating schools are in the North or East. It would seem logical that Texas institutions should take part in research on a commodity so well integrated in the state's economy.

At the close of World War II some Texans expressed concern over the future of the industry in the state because it was apparent that natural rubber, after political conditions in Southeast Asia became stabilized, would soon be available in considerable quantity. The government made a thorough study of the situation and it was recommended that some of the plants be placed on stand-by status. However, research in the field brought forth new products of superior quality made by improved techniques that meant sizeable savings in manhours and in other costs. These developments caused synthetic to be competitive with natural in both price and certain qualities. It soon became evident that the industry was an essential one and that the war-induced plants were needed

(Please turn to page 23)

Local Business

City and item	Aug 1952	Percent change: Aug 1952 from Aug 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from July 1952
ABILENE: (pop. 45,570)			
Retail sales	———	− 7	− 1
Department and apparel stores	———	− 7	− 2
Postal receipts	$ 54,887	+ 9	− 1
Building permits	$ 339,450	+ 12	− 19
Bank debits (000's)	$ 50,923	+ 1	− 3
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 56,821	+ 11	− 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.7	− 7	− 2
Placements in employment	624	− 1	+ 16
Nonagricultural civilian labor force	25,500	+ 10	+ 3
Unemployment	1,200	+ 50	+ 4
Percent of labor force unemployed	4.7	+ 38	+ 2
Air express shipments	157	− 10	+ 28
AMARILLO: (pop. 74,246)			
Retail sales	———	− 5	+ 8
Automotive stores	———	− 31	− 3
Department and apparel stores	———	+ 8	+ 24
Drug stores	———	+ 9	+ 6
Florists	———	+ 3	x
Food stores	———	+ 10	+ 5
Furniture and household appliance stores	———	+ 29	− 3
Office, store, and school supply dealers	———	+ 13	+ 2
Postal receipts	$ 114,878	+ 10	+ 3
Building permits	$ 2,619,827	+ 99	+ 11
Bank debits (000's)	$ 128,376	− 2	− 11
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 116,699	+ 14	+ 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	13.4	− 14	− 10
Placements in employment	1,522	− 12	+ 2
Nonagricultural civilian labor force	44,600	+ 3	+ 1
Unemployment	1,450	+ 23	− 3
Percent of labor force unemployed	3.3	+ 22	− 3
Air express shipments	375	− 30	+ 14
ARLINGTON: (pop. 7,692)			
Postal receipts	$ 7,361	+ 38	− 3
Bank debits (000's)	$ 5,461	+ 8	− 7
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	0 6,258	+ 13	− 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.3	− 4	− 9
AUSTIN: (pop. 132,459)			
Retail sales	———	− 7	+ 4
Automotive stores	———	− 24	− 2
Department and apparel stores	———	+ 5	− 10
Eating and drinking places	———	+ 4	+ 2
Filling stations	———	+ 6	− 3
Food stores	———	+ 14	x
Furniture and household appliance stores	———	+ 20	+ 33
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores	———	− 4	+ 10
Postal receipts	$ 212,822	+ 11	+ 2
Building permits	$ 1,978,512	− 47	− 18
Bank debits (000's)	$ 135,700	x	− 7
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 119,178	+ 9	− 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover	13.3	− 10	− 4
Placements in employment	1,448	− 4	+ 7
Nonagricultural civilian labor force	51,460	+ 5	+ 1
Unemployment	1,710	+ 23	− 10
Percent of labor force unemployed	3.3	+ 18	− 11
Air express shipments	405	− 12	− 23

For explanation of symbols, see p. 23.

City and item	Aug 1952	Percent change: Aug 1952 from Aug 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from July 1952
BASTROP: (pop. 3,176)			
Postal receipts	$ 1,815	+ 32	+ 15
Building permits	$ 2,850	———	+ 19
Bank debits (000's)	$ 1,097	− 16	+ 2
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 1,779	+ 3	+ 9
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.7	− 17	− 1
BAYTOWN: (pop. 22,983)			
Postal receipts	$ 11,730	− 9	− 21
Building permits	$ 430,450	+ 13	+ 72
Placements in employment (area)	5,930	− 6	+ 3
Nonagricultural civilian labor force (area)	356,500	+ 3	− 1
Unemployment (area)	8,400	+ 1	− 19
Percent of labor force unemployed (area)	2.4	0	− 17
BEAUMONT: (pop. 94,014)			
Retail sales	———	− 7	+ 1
Automotive stores	———	− 31	+ 9
Department and apparel stores	———	+ 4	+ 12
Eating and drinking places	———	+ 20	+ 3
Furniture and household appliance stores	———	+ 23	− 27
General merchandise stores	———	+ 4	+ 15
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores	———	+ 1	− 17
Postal receipts	$ 65,608	+ 6	− 17
Building permits	$ 364,067	+ 40	− 13
Bank debits (000's)	$ 122,397	+ 1	− 2
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 94,361	+ 3	− 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover	15.2	− 7	+ 1
Placements in employment (area)	2,033	+ 35	+ 14
Nonagricultural civilian labor force (area)	77,350	+ 1	+ 1
Unemployment (area)	4,150	− 30	− 14
Percent of labor force unemployed (area)	5.4	− 30	− 14
Air express shipments	219	− 12	− 8
Waterborne commerce (tons)	44,290	+ 3	+ 48
BIG SPRING: (pop. 17,286)			
Retail sales	———	− 30	− 27
Department and apparel stores	———	− 10	− 20
Postal receipts	$ 17,595	+ 24	+ 5
Building permits	$ 546,595	+293	− 42
Bank debits (000's)	$ 21,952	+ 16	+ 2
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 25,532	+ 10	+ 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.5	+ 19	+ 1
Placements in employment	129	− 50	− 37
Air express shipments	75	+114	+ 42
BORGER: (pop. 18,059)			
Postal receipts	$ 10,837	− 8	− 16
Building permits	$ 125,500	+109	− 11
Bank debits (000's)	$ 12,549	———	− 2
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 13,535	———	+ 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.4	———	− 6
Placements in employment	304	+ 11	+ 38
Air express shipments	45	− 34	+ 2
BRADY: (pop. 5,944)			
Building permits	$ 139,050	+212	+365
Bank debits (000's)	$ 4,117	− 17	+ 12
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 7,211	− 11	+ 6
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.0	− 7	+ 8

For explanation of symbols, see p. 23.

Conditions

City and item		Aug 1952	Percent change: Aug 1952 from Aug 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from July 1952
BRENHAM: (pop. 6,941)				
Postal receipts	$	5,656	+ 6	+ 12
Building permits	$	98,226	+269	+425
Bank debits (000's)	$	6,161	— 14	+ 21
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$	10,034	— 4	+ 7
Annual rate of deposit turnover		7.6	— 15	— 17
Placements in employment		213	+ 26	+ 70
BROWNSVILLE: (pop. 36,066)				
Retail sales		.....	— 24	+ 16
Postal receipts	$	20,153	+ 6	— 3
Building permits	$	127,570	— 20	— 61
Placements in employment		387	— 19	+ 10
Air express shipments		377	— 22	— 7
Waterborne commerce (tons)		99,789	— 14	+ 10
BROWNWOOD: (pop. 20,181)				
Retail sales		.....	— 17	— 3
Department and apparel stores		.....	+ 6	— 6
Postal receipts	$	12,871	+ 16	— 14
Building permits	$	139,084	+ 74	+187
Bank debits (000's)	$	9,745	— 18	— 3
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$	12,617	— 3	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover		9.3	— 14	— 2
Placements in employment		141	— 28	+ 18
Air express shipments		27	+ 4	+ 29
BRYAN: (pop. 18,102)				
Department and apparel stores sales		.....	+ 17	+ 2
Postal receipts	$	15,036	+ 51	+ 3
Building permits	$	185,381	+ 89	— 38
Placements in employment		291	— 14	+ 10
Air express shipments		15	— 52	— 32
CORPUS CHRISTI: (pop. 108,287)				
Retail sales		.....	— 8	— 3
Apparel stores		.....	+ 10	— 6
Automotive stores		.....	— 24	— 4
Country general stores		.....	— 9	+ 8
Department stores†		.....	+ 41	+ 30
Food stores		.....	— 14	— 23
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores		.....	— 11	— 1
Postal receipts	$	99,322	+ 6	— 12
Building permits	$	1,547,108	+ 36	+ 39
Bank debits (000's)	$	154,601	+ 21	+ 9
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$	112,814	+ 20	+ 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover		16.8	+ 2	+ 6
Placements in employment		1,945	— 2	+ 2
Nonagricultural civilian labor force		60,450	+ 5	x
Unemployment		1,750	+ 17	— 20
Percent of labor force unemployed		2.9	+ 12	— 19
Air express shipments		398	+ 8	+ 8
Waterborne commerce (tons)		2,256,760	+ 15	x
CORSICANA: (pop. 19,211)				
Department and apparel stores sales		.....	— 1	+ 6
Postal receipts	$	11,291	— 13	— 9
Bank debits (000's)	$	12,537	— 6	+ 5
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$	21,860	x	+ 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover		7.0	— 5	+ 6
Placements in employment		152	+ 3	+ 21

For explanation of symbols, see p. 23.

City and item		Aug 1952	Percent change: Aug 1952 from Aug 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from July 1952
CAMERON: (pop. 5,052)				
Postal receipts	$	4,392	+ 9	+ 17
Building permits	$	61,825	+295	+ 70
Bank debits (000's)	$	4,380	— 5	+ 13
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$	7,586	— 8	+ 6
Annual rate of deposit turnover		7.1	— 15	+ 13
CISCO: (pop. 5,230)				
Postal receipts	$	3,171	— 10	— 11
Bank debits (000's)	$	1,995	— 14	— 13
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$	4,165	+ 1	— 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover		5.7	— 17	— 12
DEL RIO: (pop. 14,211)				
Postal receipts	$	6,050	+ 2	— 23
Building permits	$	72,655	+265	+ 82
Bank debits (000's)	$	7,066	— 6	+ 2
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$	11,125	+ 2	+ 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover		7.9	— 3	— 2
Air express shipments		20	+ 33	— 17
DALLAS: (pop. 434,462)				
Retail sales		.....	x	+ 2
Apparel stores		.....	x	+ 19
Automotive stores		.....	— 27	— 4
Department stores†		.....	+ 2	+ 6
Drug stores		.....	— 5	— 4
Eating and drinking places		.....	+ 4	+ 12
Filling stations		.....	x	— 4
Florists		.....	+ 7	— 3
Food stores		.....	+ 7	— 1
Liquor stores		.....	— 10	+ 20
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores		.....	+ 8	— 1
Office, store, and school supply dealers		.....	+ 15	— 1
Postal receipts	$	1,382,849	+ 20	— 1
Building permits	$	8,041,852	— 10	+ 31
Bank debits (000's)	$	1,401,839	+ 1	— 6
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$	1,058,770	+ 12	— 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover		15.7	— 12	— 6
Placements in employment		6,481	— 5	+ 6
Nonagricultural civilian labor force		290,300	+ 5	x
Unemployment		5,500	+ 4	— 20
Percent of labor force unemployed		1.9	0	— 21
Air express shipments		7,919	+ 1	+ 14
DENISON: (pop. 17,504)				
Retail sales		.....	— 20	+ 2
Department and apparel stores		.....	+ 23	+ 6
Postal receipts	$	12,917	+ 9	+ 12
Building permits	$	21,154	— 50	— 30
Bank debits (000's)	$	9,798	— 14	— 7
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$	13,335	+ 7	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover		8.8	— 21	— 9
Placements in employment		232	— 27	— 10
DENTON: (pop. 21,372)				
Retail sales		.....	— 4	+ 1
Department and apparel stores		.....	+ 3	+ 2
Postal receipts	$	13,525	— 21	— 25
Building permits	$	36,050	— 31	— 35
Bank debits (000's)	$	9,112	— 8	— 13
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$	13,149	+ 8	+ 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover		8.4	— 13	— 15
Placements in employment		37	— 16	+ 48

For explanation of symbols, see p. 23.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item	Aug 1952	Percent change: Aug 1952 from Aug 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from July 1952
EDINBURG (pop. 12,383)			
Postal receipts	$ 6,905	+ 1	— 13
Building permits	$ 8,960	— 48	— 53
Bank debits (000's)	$ 14,184	+ 5	+ 50
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 9,784	+ 8	+ 8
Annual rate of deposit turnover	18.1	— 9	+ 38
Placements in employment	66	+ 18	+ 31
Air express shipments	7	— 22	— 30
EL PASO: (pop. 130,485)			
Retail sales		— 5	+ 7
Apparel stores		+ 18	+ 9
Automotive stores		— 21	— 1
Department stores†		+ 12	+ 13
Drug stores		+ 4	+ 2
Furniture and household appliance stores		— 1	x
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores		— 7	+ 9
Office, store, and school supply dealers		+ 44	+ 17
Postal receipts	$ 160,559	— 2	x
Building permits	$ 627,200	+ 15	— 35
Bank debits (000's)	$ 165,672	+ 9	— 7
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 153,025	+ 20	+ 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	13.1	— 6	— 6
Placements in employment	1,774	+ 4	— 10
Nonagricultural civilian labor force	68,450	+ 9	x
Unemployment	2,750	+ 53	— 5
Percent of labor force unemployed	4.0	+ 38	— 7
Air express shipments	1,184	— 1	+ 6
Tourists entering Mexico	4,874	+ 26	+ 23
Tourist cars entering Mexico	1,482	— 8	— 6
FORT WORTH: (pop. 278,778)			
Retail sales		— 12	— 2
Apparel stores		— 2	+ 11
Automotive stores		— 22	— 4
Department stores†		+ 6	+ 11
Eating and drinking places		— 3	+ 10
Filling stations		— 3	— 1
Florists		x	+ 5
Food stores		+ 3	— 4
Furniture and household appliance stores		— 13	+ 6
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores		+ 3	— 3
Postal receipts	$ 410,306	+ 2	— 7
Building permits	$ 2,702,168	+ 2	— 24
Bank debits (000's)	$ 506,785	+ 6	— 4
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 405,866	+ 14	— 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	14.9	— 8	— 4
Placements in employment	4,548	— 21	— 10
Nonagricultural civilian labor force	169,700	+ 4	x
Unemployment	7,000	+ 32	— 4
Percent of labor force unemployed	4.1	+ 28	— 5
Air express shipments	1,855	— 8	+ 7
GARLAND: (pop. 10,571)			
Postal receipts	$ 8,627	— 1	+ 3
Building permits	$ 360,824	+ 83	— 53
Bank debits (000's)	$ 7,592	....	— 6
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 7,262	+ 18	+ 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover	12.8	....	— 7
GONZALES: (pop. 5,659)			
Postal receipts	$ 3,939	+ 16	— 11
Building permits	$ 31,325	— 49	+910
Bank debits (000's)	$ 4,736	— 21	+ 3
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 6,227	x	+ 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.3	— 21	+ 4

For explanation of symbols, see p. 23.

City and item	Aug 1952	Percent change: Aug 1952 from Aug 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from July 1952
GALVESTON: (pop. 66,568)			
Retail sales		— 4	— 3
Automotive stores		— 35	— 27
Department and apparel stores		+ 2	+ 14
Eating and drinking places		— 5	+ 6
Food stores		+ 5	+ 6
Furniture and household appliance stores		+ 16	+ 7
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores		+ 27	— 21
Postal receipts	$ 57,705	+ 1	— 9
Building permits	$ 168,419	+147	— 35
Bank debits (000's)	$ 81,191	+ 8	+ 1
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 102,403	+ 6	— 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.4	+ 2	+ 2
Placements in employment (area)	804	— 9	— 6
Nonagricultural civilian labor force (area)	51,700	+ 4	x
Unemployment (area)	1,900	+ 6	0
Percent of labor force unemployed (area)	3.7	+ 3	0
Air express shipments	237	+ 4	— 8
GREENVILLE: (pop. 14,727)			
Retail sales		— 25	— 5
Department and apparel stores		+ 7	— 10
Postal receipts	$ 16,543	+ 27	— 13
Building permits	$ 88,670	+ 26	— 16
Placements in employment	221	— 31	— 16
HARLINGEN: (pop. 23,229)			
Postal receipts	$ 20,274	+ 10	— 5
Building permits	$ 247,750	+126	+ 86
Bank debits (000's)	$ 67,812	— 15	+ 60
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 24,083	— 19	+ 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	34.4	— 2	+ 42
Placements in employment	408	+ 44	— 33
Air express shipments	145	— 13	+ 7
HOUSTON: (pop. 596,163)			
Retail sales		+ 15	+ 7
Apparel stores		+ 18	+ 12
Automotive stores		— 19	— 3
Department stores†		+ 8	+ 6
Drug stores		+ 10	+ 3
Eating and drinking places		— 14	x
Filling stations		+ 9	— 3
Florists		+ 23	+ 2
Food stores		+ 54	+ 11
Furniture and household appliance stores		x	x
Liquor stores		+ 10	+ 6
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores		— 16	+ 19
Office, store, and school supply dealers		— 20	— 19
Postal receipts	$ 798,599	+ 10	— 10
Building permits	$ 8,630,934	— 4	— 16
Bank debits (000's)	$ 1,544,095	+ 4	— 6
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 1,171,148	+ 9	— 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	15.7	— 7	— 6
Placements in employment (area)	5,930	— 6	+ 3
Nonagricultural civilian labor force (area)	356,500	+ 3	— 1
Unemployment (area)	8,400	+ 1	— 19
Percent of labor force unemployed (area)	2.4	0	— 17
Air express shipments	4,414	— 1	+ 3

For explanation of symbols, see p. 23.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item	Aug 1952	Percent change: Aug 1952 from Aug 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from July 1952
HENDERSON: (pop. 6,833)			
Postal receipts	$ 7,845	+ 14	x
Building permits	$ 38,600	+114	— 1
Bank debits (000's)	$ 5,488	+ 17	+ 1
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 14,297	+ 9	+ 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	4.7	+ 9	— 8
Placements in employment	183	+ 10	— 78
KILGORE: (pop. 9,638)			
Building permits	$ 10,000	+223	— 83
Bank debits (000's)	$ 11,899	----	— 12
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 14,642	----	+ 2
Air express shipments	25	0	+ 32
KILLEEN: (pop. 7,045)			
Postal receipts	$ 19,194	+ 8	— 5
Bank debits (000's)	$ 6,876	----	+ 5
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 10,194	----	+ 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.1	----	— 4
LAMESA: (pop. 10,704)			
Postal receipts	$ 7,498	+ 12	— 7
Building permits	$ 130,446	+117	+218
Bank debits (000's)	$ 6,377	— 24	— 26
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 10,120	— 31	— 28
Annual rate of deposit turnover	6.4	— 4	— 12
Placements in employment	175	+ 17	+ 24
LAMPASAS: (pop. 4,869)			
Postal receipts	$ 3,241	+ 29	— 3
Building permits	$ 34,250	+ 35	— 23
Bank debits (000's)	$ 4,253	— 14	+ 5
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 6,627	+ 3	+ 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.8	— 15	+ 4
LAREDO: (pop. 51,910)			
Postal receipts	$ 20,874	+ 12	— 18
Building permits	$ 285,625	+546	— 61
Bank debits (000's)	$ 20,459	— 3	— 2
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 25,074	+ 19	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.8	— 18	— 2
Placements in employment	302	+ 32	— 16
Air express shipments	190	— 4	— 14
Tourists entering Mexico	19,100	+ 5	+ 5
Tourist cars entering Mexico	6,166	+ 12	+ 10
LLANO: (pop. 2,954)			
Postal receipts	$ 1,750	+ 43	— 17
Bank debits (000's)	$ 3,044	----	+ 35
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 3,871	----	+ 9
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.9	----	+ 29
LOCKHART: (pop. 5,573)			
Postal receipts	$ 2,445	+ 6	— 18
Building permits	$ 13,100	— 27	— 48
Bank debits (000's)	$ 3,513	+ 3	+ 16
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 4,454	— 1	+ 6
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.8	+ 3	+ 14
LUFKIN: (pop. 15,135)			
Postal receipts	$ 11,597	+ 11	— 14
Building permits	$ 75,000	+ 2	+ 34
Bank debits (000's)	$ 14,847	+ 4	— 11
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 20,555	+ 11	+ 8
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.0	— 3	— 13
Placements in employment	109	— 40	+ 15
Air express shipments	22	— 33	— 27

For explanation of symbols, see p. 23.

City and item	Aug 1952	Percent change: Aug 1952 from Aug 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from July 1952
LONGVIEW: (pop. 24,502)			
Postal receipts	$ 21,072	+ 3	— 22
Building permits	$ 33,960	— 92	— 96
Bank debits (000's)	$ 28,413	— 3	— 7
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 35,576	+ 11	+ 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.7	— 11	— 8
Placements in employment	522	— 20	— 3
Nonagricultural civilian labor force	24,625	+ 4	+ 1
Unemployment	1,175	+ 4	— 10
Percent of labor force unemployed	4.8	0	— 9
Air express shipments	128	— 26	+ 15
LUBBOCK: (pop. 71,747)			
Retail sales	----	— 5	— 8
Automotive stores	----	— 17	— 18
Department and apparel stores	----	+ 6	+ 2
Furniture and household appliance stores	----	+116	+ 63
General merchandise stores	----	+ 7	+ 2
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores	----	— 5	— 3
Postal receipts	$ 76,098	+ 6	— 7
Building permits	$ 1,390,402	— 22	— 46
Bank debits (000's)	$ 93,731	+ 13	— 12
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 98,720	+ 11	— 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.3	+ 1	— 10
Placements in employment	1,331	+ 22	+ 34
Nonagricultural civilian labor force	31,350	+ 3	x
Unemployment	1,000	+ 11	0
Percent of labor force unemployed	3.2	+ 7	0
Air express shipments	222	— 4	+ 3
McALLEN: (pop. 20,067)			
Retail sales	----	— 20	+ 11
Department and apparel stores	----	— 6	+ 30
Postal receipts	$ 15,180	+ 18	+ 9
Building permits	$ 97,850	— 66	+ 34
Placements in employment	333	+ 1	+ 26
Air express shipments	39	+ 95	+ 86
MARLIN: (pop. 7,099)			
Postal receipts	$ 5,157	+ 6	+ 3
Building permits	$ 26,650	— 58	— 17
Bank debits (000's)	$ 2,745	— 22	— 9
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 5,214	+ 5	+ 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover	6.5	— 30	— 10
Placements in employment	80	+ 3	— 5
MARSHALL: (pop. 22,327)			
Retail sales	----	+ 8	+ 1
Department and apparel stores	----	+ 11	— 9
Postal receipts	$ 13,782	— 2	— 14
Building permits	$ 74,419	— 38	— 53
Bank debits (000's)	$ 12,537	+ 2	x
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 19,415	+ 4	+ 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.8	— 33	0
Placements in employment	427	+ 20	+ 9
MIDLAND: (pop. 21,713)			
Postal receipts	$ 33,316	+ 7	— 23
Bank debits (000's)	$ 48,704	+ 5	— 1
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 53,157	+ 3	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.0	+ 2	+ 2
Placements in employment	1,035	+ 43	+ 5
Air express shipments	157	— 16	— 24

For explanation of symbols, see p. 23.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item	Aug 1952	Percent change: Aug 1952 from Aug 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from July 1952
NACOGDOCHES: (pop. 12,327)			
Postal receipts	$ 8,905	+ 31	— 11
Building permits	$ 48,777	....	+ 82
Bank debits (000's)	$ 9,336	+ 2	— 3
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 15,534	+ 11	+ 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.3	— 6	— 1
Placements in employment	83	— 27	— 17
Air express shipments	11	....	0
ODESSA: (pop. 29,495)			
Postal receipts	$ 30,788	+ 12	— 19
Building permits	$ 1,194,623	+152	+ 7
Bank debits (000's)	$ 40,360	+ 32	+ 14
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 38,069	+ 29	+ 13
Annual rate of deposit turnover	13.5	+ 5	+ 16
Placements in employment	767	+ 21	+ 36
Air express shipments	166	— 17	— 22
PAMPA: (pop. 16,583)			
Postal receipts	$ 12,835	+ 6	— 11
Building permits	$ 311,919	+ 85	+ 83
Bank debits (000's)	$ 14,176	....	— 8
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 21,766	....	— 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.8	....	— 13
Placements in employment	189	— 37	+ 6
Air express shipments	52	— 10	— 2
PARIS: (pop. 21,643)			
Retail sales	....	— 17	— 8
Department and apparel stores	....	+ 2	+ 1
Postal receipts	$ 12,872	+ 16	— 8
Building permits	$ 33,390	+ 42	— 26
Placements in employment	417	+ 30	— 34
Air express shipments	22	— 24	— 29
PLAINVIEW: (pop. 14,044)			
Retail sales	....	— 15	— 13
Postal receipts	$ 10,168	+ 22	— 11
Building permits	$ 200,000	+344	— 47
Bank debits (000's)	$ 14,487	+ 7	— 7
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 19,301	+ 25	— 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.9	— 14	— 7
Placements in employment	94	— 21	— 19
Air express shipments	16	— 41	— 36
PORT ARTHUR: (pop. 57,530)			
Retail sales	....	— 10	— 6
Automotive stores	....	— 29	— 17
Department and apparel stores	....	— 4	+ 3
Drug stores	....	+ 5	x
Filling stations	....	+ 25	— 5
Food stores	....	+ 2	+ 10
Furniture and household appliance stores	....	+ 4	— 18
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores	....	+ 12	+ 3
Postal receipts	$ 30,148	+ 14	— 16
Building permits	$ 393,388	+ 30	— 10
Bank debits (000's)	$ 44,465	+ 5	— 1
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 43,245	+ 2	+ 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover	12.6	+ 7	— 1
Placements in employment (area)	2,033	+ 14	+ 14
Nonagricultural civilian labor force (area)	77,350	+ 1	+ 1
Unemployment (area)	4,150	— 30	— 14
Percent of labor force unemployed (area)	5.4	— 30	— 14
Air express shipments	128	+ 10	+ 33

For explanation of symbols, see p. 23.

City and item	Aug 1952	Percent change: Aug 1952 from Aug 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from July 1952
RAYMONDVILLE: (pop. 9,136)			
Postal receipts	$ 4,552	— 20	— 29
Building permits	$ 8,595	+719	+ 4
Bank debits (000's)	$ 20,935	— 14	+125
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 12,728	— 40	— 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover	19.2	0	+ 78
Placements in employment	113	— 14	— 22
SAN ANGELO: (pop. 52,093)			
Retail sales	....	— 28	— 21
Department and apparel stores	....	— 27	— 37
Postal receipts	$ 44,827	+ 13	+ 6
Building permits	$ 430,144	— 28	— 5
Bank debits (000's)	$ 36,256	— 9	— 2
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 51,358	— 1	+ 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.5	— 10	— 4
Placements in employment	819	+ 8	x
Nonagricultural civilian labor force	21,350	+ 2	x
Unemployment	1,000	+ 33	+ 5
Percent of labor force unemployed	4.7	+ 31	+ 4
Air express shipments	171	— 16	— 1
SAN ANTONIO: (pop. 408,442)			
Retail sales	....	x	+ 6
Apparel stores	....	+ 9	+ 12
Automotive stores	....	— 24	— 2
Department stores†	....	+ 1	+ 18
Drug stores	....	+ 2	x
Eating and drinking places	....	+ 5	+ 7
Filling stations	....	— 2	— 6
Florists	....	+ 17	+ 29
Food stores	....	+ 13	+ 11
Furniture and household appliance stores	....	x	— 1
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores	....	— 23	— 2
Office, store, and school supply dealers	....	+ 9	— 18
Postal receipts	$ 420,871	— 6	— 7
Building permits	$ 3,028,600	— 11	+ 22
Bank debits (000's)	$ 353,796	— 4	— 5
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 396,847	+ 5	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.7	— 9	— 6
Placements in employment	4,004	— 10	+ 4
Nonagricultural civilian labor force	202,400	+ 3	x
Unemployment	7,200	+ 31	— 1
Percent of labor force unemployed	3.6	+ 29	0
Air express shipments	2,194	— 13	+ 2
SEGUIN: (pop. 9,733)			
Postal receipts	$ 6,410	+ 5	— 21
Building permits	$ 29,650	— 23	— 3
Bank debits (000's)	$ 7,133	— 16	+ 14
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 15,153	+ 8	+ 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover	5.8	— 22	+ 12
SHERMAN: (pop. 20,150)			
Retail sales	....	— 20	— 13
Department and apparel stores	....	+ 6	+ 13
Postal receipts	$ 18,448	— 2	— 20
Building permits	$ 215,562	+371	— 51
Placements in employment	214	— 23	+ 44
TAYLOR: (pop. 9,071)			
Postal receipts	$ 5,676	— 8	— 15
Bank debits (000's)	$ 12,838	— 18	+ 24
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 13,714	+ 6	+ 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.4	— 25	+ 19
Placements in employment	113	+ 4	+ 6

For explanation of symbols, see p. 23.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item	Aug 1952	Percent change: Aug 1952 from Aug 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from July 1952
SULPHUR SPRINGS: (pop. 8,991)			
Postal receipts	$ 4,618	+ 9	— 18
Bank debits (000's)	$ 5,898	— 7	— 2
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 10,117	+ 7	+ 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.0	— 13	— 3
TEMPLE: (pop. 25,467)			
Retail sales	———	— 4	+ 3
Department and apparel stores	———	+ 11	+ 16
Postal receipts	$ 25,468	+ 18	x
Building permits	$ 241,030	+ 3	+ 16
Bank debits (000's)	$ 17,638	— 6	+ 7
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 22,277	+ 3	+ 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.7	— 10	+ 11
Placements in employment	326	— 3	— 7
Air express shipments	38	+ 19	+ 31
TEXARKANA: (pop. 40,628)‡			
Retail sales‡	———	— 12	— 4
Department and apparel stores‡	———	+ 3	+ 3
Postal receipts‡	$ 53,724	+ 14	+ 18
Bank debits (000's)‡	$ 38,897	+ 15	— 3
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 28,503	+ 19	+ 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.9	— 9	— 5
Placements in employment‡	1,303	— 5	— 19
Nonagricultural civilian labor force‡	46,050	+ 12	x
Unemployment‡	2,450	— 18	+ 9
Percent of labor force unemployed‡	5.3	— 27	+ 8
Air express shipments‡	98	— 10	+ 5
WACO: (pop. 84,706)			
Retail sales	———	— 14	+ 3
Apparel stores	———	— 10	— 4
Automotive stores	———	— 29	— 5
Department stores†	———	+ 8	+ 9
Florists	———	+ 13	+ 5
Furniture and household appliance stores	———	— 21	— 2
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores	———	— 45	— 12
Office, store, and school supply dealers	———	x	+ 5
Postal receipts	$ 95,828	+ 7	— 3
Building permits	$ 533,373	— 77	— 32
Bank debits (000's)	$ 71,085	+ 11	+ 1
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 89,479	+ 15	+ 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.6	— 2	+ 1
Placements in employment	1,070	— 8	— 3
Nonagricultural civilian labor force	44,650	+ 1	x
Unemployment	1,900	+ 58	— 7
Percent of labor force unemployed	4.3	+ 59	— 7
Air express shipments	131	— 27	— 4

City and item	Aug 1952	Percent change: Aug 1952 from Aug 1951	Percent change: Aug 1952 from July 1952
SWEETWATER: (pop. 13,619)			
Postal receipts	$ 9,000	— 13	— 11
Building permits	$ 53,000	— 85	— 12
Placements in employment	101	— 11	— 5
Air express shipments	11	— 54	— 50
TEXAS CITY: (pop. 16,620)			
Postal receipts	$ 12,062	+ 11	— 14
Building permits	$ 261,110	+ 15	— 42
Bank debits (000's)	$ 26,270	+ 16	+ 3
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 24,474	+ 8	— 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover	12.6	+ 2	— 3
Placements in employment (area)	804	— 9	— 6
Nonagricultural civilian labor force (area)	51,700	+ 4	x
Unemployment (area)	1,900	+ 6	0
Percent of labor force unemployed (area)	3.7	+ 8	0
TYLER: (pop. 38,968)			
Retail sales	———	— 5	— 1
Department and apparel stores	———	+ 2	+ 14
Postal receipts	$ 40,185	+ 13	— 4
Building permits	$ 418,635	+ 62	— 21
Bank debits (000's)	$ 52,082	+ 5	— 4
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 54,719	+ 7	— 7
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.9	— 6	— 3
Placements in employment	350	— 28	— 28
Air express shipments	186	— 7	+ 30
WICHITA FALLS: (pop. 68,042)			
Retail sales	———	— 15	— 15
Department and apparel stores	———	— 8	— 6
Postal receipts	$ 68,471	— 20	— 14
Building permits	$ 894,380	+142	+ 47
Bank debits (000's)	$ 81,721	+ 4	— 12
End-of-month deposits (000's)*	$ 105,932	+ 4	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.2	0	— 12
Placements in employment	820	— 22	— 18
Nonagricultural civilian labor force	42,550	+ 3	x
Unemployment	1,750	+ 86	+ 6
Percent of labor force unemployed	4.1	+ 78	+ 5
Air express shipments	181	— 11	+ 8

xChange is less than one half of one percent.
*Excludes deposits to credit of banks.
†Reported by the Federal Reserve Board of Dallas.
‡Figures include Texarkana, Arkansas (pop. 15,875) and Texarkana, Texas (pop. 24,753).

(Continued from page 17)

to produce for our expanding peace-time economy. The outbreak of the Korean conflict added to the demands made on the industry, and installations on a standby status were reopened to produce for the defense emergency.

The recent report issued by the President's Materials Policy Commission anticipates that needs for new rubber in 1975 may be 2½ times consumption for 1950. The report further states that increased production will likely occur in both natural and synthetic types. The Commission emphasizes "that the security interest of the United States can and will be best served by the development within the United States of a free competitive synthetic rubber industry." If the policy of free enterprise in the industry is implemented, Texas should profit immeasurably because of its adequate supplies of raw materials basic to the manufacture of the feed stocks for rubber.

STANLEY A. ARBINGAST

BAROMETERS OF TEXAS BUSINESS

	Aug 1952	July 1952	June 1952	Year-to-date average 1952	Average month 1951
GENERAL BUSINESS ACTIVITY					
†Index of Texas Business Activity (100.0)	258*	254*	258	261	251
Index of bank debits in Texas cities	654	670	638	662	617
Income payments to individuals in the U. S. (billions—seasonally adjusted at annual rate)	.....	$ 264.2	$ 266.7	$ 263.8	$ 253.6
Index of wholesale prices in the U.S. (1947–49=100, unadjusted)	112.1	111.8	111.3	112.1	114.8
Index of consumers' prices in Houston (unadjusted)	196.0	195.1	194.6	194.8	193.0
Index of consumers' prices in the U.S. (unadjusted)	191.0	190.8	189.6	189.3	185.6
Index of postal receipts in Texas cities	377	406	372	373	331
†Index of miscellaneous freight carloadings in the Southwestern District (17.6)	142	139	141	143	145
Business corporation charters issued (number)	213*	310	389	289	224
Business failures (number)	12	12	3	8	7
TRADE					
†Index of total retail sales (adjusted for price changes, 47.7)	216*	218*	233	225	228
Index of total retail sales in Texas	455	459	490	474	471
Durable-goods stores	556	595	710	645	670
Nondurable-goods stores	404	393	385	391	375
‡Index of total retail sales in the U.S.	.....	418	435	418	409
‡Durable-goods stores	.....	565	619	579	573
‡Nondurable-goods stores	.....	370	375	365	356
Ratio of credit sales to net sales in department and apparel stores	65.4	63.5	63.7	63.9	64.5
Ratio of collections to outstandings in department and apparel stores	44.1	43.9	44.6	45.9	46.2
Index of gasoline sales	.....	254	250	261	250
PRODUCTION					
†Index of industrial electric power consumption (14.8)	512	493	474	511	451
†Index of crude runs to stills (4.5)	214	203	204	203	199
Index of wheat grindings	.....	98	88	96	102
Index of cottonseed crushed	87	115	212	149	114
Index of southern pine production (unadjusted)	.....	124	117	124	119
Index of dairy product manufacturing	51	49	58	58	59
†Index of urban building permits (adjusted for price changes, 3.8)	153*	170	188	196	196
Index of urban building permits	325*	361	380	405	404
†Index of crude petroleum production (8.6)	224	216	214	226	223
Index of natural gas production	.....	540	519	525	497
†Index of total electric power consumption (3.0)	635	608	565	569	498
Index of industrial production in the U.S.	212	191	203	212	220
Index of cement production	.....	308	314	325	294
Construction contracts awarded (thousands)	.....	$104,559	$107,821	$114,256	$102,651
AGRICULTURE					
Index of farm cash income (unadjusted)	528	339	327	317	516
Index of prices received by farmers (unadjusted)	333	333	341	344	371
Index of prices paid by farmers in the U.S. (parity index—unadjusted, (1910–14=100)	287	286	286	288	281
Parity ratio for Texas	116	116	119	120	133
Index of prices received by farmers—livestock (unadjusted)	361	374	384	393	445
Index of prices received by farmers—all crops (unadjusted)	312	302	308	307	316
FINANCE					
Loans, reporting member banks in Dallas district (millions)	$ 1,631	$ 1,574	$ 1,567	$ 1,560	$ 1,468
Loans and investments, reporting member banks in Dallas district (millions)	$ 3,050	$ 3,018	$ 2,968	$ 2,923	$ 2,713
Demand deposits adjusted, reporting member banks in Dallas district (millions)	$ 2,402	$ 2,406	$ 2,318	$ 2,355	$ 2,217
Bank debits in 20 cities (millions)	$ 5,097	$ 5,388	$ 5,155	$ 5,250	$ 4,989
Revenue receipts of the State Comptroller (thousands)	$ 51,371	$ 58,153	$ 58,881	$ 58,609	$ 54,205
Federal Internal Revenue collections (thousands)	$142,163	$124,957	$258,237	$207,686	$155,170
LABOR					
Total nonagricultural employment (thousands)	2,193.9*	2,177.3	2,166.4	2,141.2	2,082.9
Total manufacturing employment (thousands)	421.2*	416.1	414.1	414.8	397.9
Durable-goods employment (thousands)	199.6*	196.9	195.8	198.0	185.4
Nondurable-goods employment (thousands)	221.6*	219.2	218.3	216.8	212.5
Nonagricultural civilian labor force in 17 labor market areas (thousands)	1,609	1,607	1,600	1,587	1,528
Unemployment in 17 labor market areas	52,285	57,425	57,050	53,366	46,280
Placements in 17 labor market areas	36,978	36,685	41,699	35,634	36,696
Percent of labor force unemployed	3.2	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.0

All figures are for Texas unless otherwise indicated. All indexes are based on the average months for 1935–39 except where indicated and are adjusted for seasonal variation (except annual indexes).

Manufacturing employment estimates have been adjusted to first quarter 1951 benchmarks.

*Preliminary.

†The index of business activity is a weighted average of the indexes indicated by a dagger (†). The weight given each index in computing the composite is given in parentheses.

‡New series. Index computed from estimates of retail sales published by Bureau of the Census.